## Grants Awarded Under the Call: Strengthening EU Integration in Montenegro, Macedonia, and Serbia<sup>1</sup>

- Center for Democratic Transition (CDT), Montenegro Western Balkans and the EU Accession Process: Application of Political Criteria; €99,889 Main objective of this action is to support Macedonia's, Montenegro's, and Serbia's EU accession through independent and innovative CSO assessment of the fulfilment of the political criteria.
- Group 484, Serbia Migration Policy Agenda Priority in the Process of the EU Integration of Serbia; €91,650
   Main objective of this action is to improve migration and asylum policies in Serbia towards full alignment with the EU standards and inclusion of Serbia into the EU migration policy agenda and debates regarding current migration challenges and policy changes.
- Lawyers' Committee for Human Rights (YUCOM), Serbia Towards Stronger Judiciary through Citizens' Monitoring; €49,292
  Main objective of this action is to contribute to the enhancement of Serbia's accession to EU by monitoring implementation of measures related to judiciary within the Chapters 23 (Judiciary and Human Rights) and related question of judiciary within Chapter 35 (normalization of relations between Serbia and Kosovo).
- 4. Center for Advanced Economic Studies (CEVES), Serbia Raising Awareness on Potential Benefits and Strengthening Capacity of Key Stakeholders in the Area of State Aid; €49,815

Main objective of this action is to contribute to the democratic consolidation and institutional reforms in Serbia by aligning its national competition policy with the European Union's competition policy—defined by the Chapter 8 of Serbia's integration process into the EU.

5. European Policy Institute (EPI), Macedonia - Network 23 – Networking for Impact (NETWIT 23); €41,682

Main objective of this action is to contribute to an increased influence of civil society on creating public policies in the area of Chapter 23—Judiciary and Fundamental Rights in the context of EU accession.

 Foundation 021 Novi Sad, Serbia - The Houseleek; €25,760
 Main objective of this action is to raise public awareness in the multi-ethnical Serbian Autonomous Province of Vojvodina about interculturalism and interethnicity in order to

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The Balkan Trust for Democracy's financial and technical assistance for this sub-granting process is part of the larger Norwegian efforts to support Macedonia, Montenegro, and Serbia.

enable stability and prosperity in the region and the country on the way to the EU integration.

- 7. Helsinki Committee for Human Rights Serbia (HCHRS), Serbia Citizens Action for a Full Implementation of Chapter 35; €51,749 Main objective of this action is to contribute to the normalization of relations between Serbs and Albanians in Kosovo, which is framed under the Chapter 35 of the Serbia's negotiation process with the EU.
- Lawyers' Committee for Human Rights (YUCOM), Serbia Serbs and Albanians: Which way forward? €21,230
  Main objective is to improve relations between the two societies by bringing together representatives of the civil society, academia, media, and political organizations in discussing key problems in Serbo-Albanian relations and discussing possibilities for their improvement and establishing stronger cooperation.
- 9. Civic Alliance (CA), Montenegro **Jointly for progress in Chapters 23 and 24**; €71,757 Main objective is to contribute to the democratic consolidation, institutional reform, and lasting peace and stability in Montenegro by monitoring judiciary, analyzing justice mechanisms, advocating, and critically engaging key stakeholders and citizens.
- 10. Association of Public Prosecutors and Deputy Public Prosecutors of Serbia (PAS); Serbia
   Measuring results of the new Law on suppression of organized crime, terrorism and corruption; €49,460

Main objective is to contribute to the improvement of framework for the response of the criminal justice system in corruption cases, specifically specialized prosecutors' departments for fight against corruption.

- 11. European Movement in Serbia (EMinS); Serbia Social Public Procurement for Sustainable Development of Local Communities; €48,244 Main objective is to contribute to sustainable local development by introducing a model of social public procurement procedure.
- 12. BELhospice Center for palliative care and palliative medicine; Serbia Advancing human rights through improved palliative care services; €76,720
  Main objective is improved implementation of the legal framework and upgrade of the normative framework for the protection and promotion of fundamental rights of vulnerable groups.
- Safer Chemicals Alternative (AlHem); Serbia Green Public Procurement through stakeholder synergy; €56,745
   Main objective is contribution to development and fostering the green public procurement (GPP) in Serbia by building CSOs capacity to support public authorities to engage GPP,

as well as other stakeholders involved in this process to reduce adverse impact on health and the environment.

14. Transparency International; Macedonia - **Empowering whistleblowers in Macedonia**; €33,660

Main objective is creation of a platform for supporting whistleblower protection that will serve as an informative tool and will provide transparency in the government institutions' performance in implementation of the law on the protection of the whistleblowers.

- 15. Pištaljka (Eutopia Association); Serbia **Whistleblower Resource Center**; €100,000 Main objective of this action is to lower effects of corruption on the Serbian society by ensuring whistleblowers' complaints are handled properly, and official investigations are conducted in a timely and professional manner.
- 16. Center for Democratic Transition (CDT), Montenegro Western Balkans and the EU Accession Process: Application of Political Criteria; €90,413 – continuation Main objective of this action is to support Macedonia's, Montenegro's, and Serbia's EU accession through independent and innovative CSO assessment of the fulfilment of the political criteria.
- 17. Institute Alternative (IA), Montenegro Strengthening Financial Control in Montenegro; €74,070

Main objective of this action is to strengthen financial control in Montenegro, through three specific objectives addressing key preconditions for impactful oversight of public spending: achieving stronger impact of State Audit Institution, creating more public value out of the system of public internal financial controls, as well as increasing overall budget openness, as a precondition for a more active role for citizens in accountability in public spending.

 Centre for Advanced Economic Studies (CEVES), Serbia - Support It SMART – State-aid More Accountable, Reliable, and Transparent; €55,810 – continuation

Main objective of this action is to contribute to fundamental progress in the establishment of accountable, transparent, and controllable state-aid mechanism in Serbia. In order to achieve the goal, the project will build capacity for more accurate, transparent, and userfriendly reporting on state-aid spending, primarily at the Commission for State-aid Control (CSAC) and Ministry of Economy (MoE).

19. Belgrade Centre for Security Policy (BCSP), Serbia - Western Balkan Organized Crime Radar; €99,538

Main objective of this action is to strengthen civil society's role in fighting organized crime in WB6 in order to contribute to the development of effective and long-term policies against organized crime in line with the new EU's enlargement strategy for WB6. 20. Ana and Vlade Divac Foundation, Serbia - **Strengthening gender equality in Serbia**; €90,910

By addressing gender discrimination, this project will contribute to the strengthening of human rights in Serbia and empowerment of women, particularly in employment and occupation, which is repeatedly recorded as one of the main fields of discrimination against women.

- 21. Montenegrin Pan-European Union, Montenegro Towards the negotiation in the area of competition policy: challenges for North Macedonia, Serbia and Montenegro; €18,833 Main objective of this action is to strengthen dialogue between academia, NGO, government, and business related to common European policies, to support exchange of experiences between the candidate countries, to raise knowledge about state aid rules/competition policy and its impact on quality and scope of the negotiation process, and to understand EU integration process and its impact on economy and quality of ordinary citizens' life.
- 22. International and Security Affairs Centre ISAC fund, Serbia CFSP (Common Foreign, Security and Defense Policy) Conference 2020; €19,974 Main contribution of this action is an increase of awareness on Chapter 31 and Common Foreign, Security and Defense Policy through a high-level public conference and related activities.
- 23. Civic Alliance, Montenegro Transparent and effective judiciary for efficient negotiations in Chapter 23 and 24; €96,345 Main objective of this action is to contribute to the democratic consolidation, institutional reform, and lasting peace and stability in Montenegro by monitoring judiciary, analyzing justice mechanisms, advocating, and critically engaging key stakeholders and citizens.
- 24. Center for Democracy Foundation, Serbia **Connecting the Dots**; €96,403 Main objective of this action is to contribute to Euro-Atlantic integration processes in Serbia by bringing the reforms closer to citizens through monitoring of reforms and advocating for democratic consolidation and institutional reform, by enhancing public dialogue as a human security-building and conflict-prevention platform, and through empowering the citizens as human rights-holders, and particularly, social rights-holders.

25. Finance Think – Economic Research & Policy Institute, North Macedonia – **Promoting** evidence and dialogue for enhancing state aid's effect onto consumer welfare in North Macedonia; €71,685

The main objective of the action is to promote evidence and foster dialogue on the role of state aid for consumer welfare in North Macedonia.

26. EUROTHINK – Centre for European Strategies, North Macedonia – Roads not Taken: Citizens for Chapter 24; €69,017

The overall goal of this action is to enhance the EU Integration process of North Macedonia regarding Chapter 24 via empowering civil society and citizens by means of information creation and sharing, capacity building, and knowledge transfer.

27. Civil Rights defenders, Serbia – Empowered Youth in Action for Diversity in Serbia and North Macedonia; €76,792

This project aims to improve the position of the LGBT+ community in Serbia and North Macedonia by increasing their visibility and supporting their fight for equal rights through the changes in the legislative framework. With the project we will support the work of Pride Info Center in Belgrade, the first public place where LGBT+ people can obtain all relevant resources, express themselves through arts and culture, and proactively engage in direct communication with the wider public on topics not commonly discussed in society.

28. Lawyers' Committee for Human Rights – YUCOM, Serbia – **Towards Stronger Judiciary** through Citizens' Monitoring: Phase II; €49,150

The overall objective of this project is to contribute to the enhancement of Serbia's European Union accession prospects by monitoring activities related to the judiciary in Chapter 23 of the Acquis (Judiciary and Fundamental Rights) and Chapter 35 (Other issues: Normalization of relations between Serbia and Kosovo).

29. Association Women's Forum Prijepolje, Serbia - **Improving democratic society through** strengthening the capacities of female NGOs and citizens; €6,318

The project highlights problems with which vulnerable groups, in this case women, face as well as the problems of those organizations that are fighting for their rights. The project aims to provide support through technical support, organization of educational seminars that lead to improvement of their skills, knowledge, competences, and informs, and sensitizes all citizens of south-western Serbia to participate in public advocacy and contribute to the creation of a democratic society with respect of human rights, especially women's rights.

30. Ana and Vlade Divac Foundation, Serbia - Enhancing solidarity efforts in response to COVID-19 outbreak in Serbia; €21,700

The objective of the project is to contribute to the community response and civic solidarity in times of the coronavirus crisis in Serbia. Providing subgranting to local organizations and grassroots community initiatives, as well as supporting at least two media outlets.

## 31. BIRN North Macedonia – Perspectives on the pandemic; €21,700

The project will examine the effects of the pandemic on the country's health system, the political scene, its economy, the media industry, the delayed of high profile court cases, education, as well as its impact on transparency of institutions through a series of investigative and in-depth articles.

32. Fund for Active Citizenship – fAKT, Montenegro - **Staying Home with More Dignity and Hope**; €21,700

The project aims at providing direct grants to five parental associations (PAs) in remote parts of the country, as well as setting up an online support platform. Food, hygiene supplies, and psychosocial support would be provided to families living below the poverty line, as well as parents of children with disabilities.

33. A11 Initiative, Serbia - Improved framework for the protection of rights of some of the most vulnerable groups in Serbia; €21,700

The aim of the project is to reduce negative effects of the emergency situation on the position of the most vulnerable population in Serbia, to evaluate if introduced measures are in line with the human rights obligations, and to strengthen capacities of the government to create and conduct measures that will provide protection to the most vulnerable population during and in the aftermath of declared state of emergency.

34. Mixer Association, Serbia – Partnerships for a Better Environment; €19,260

This project aims to raise awareness and overall knowledge among citizens of Serbia, as well as relevant local stakeholders and green initiative leaders about the implementation of the EU Green Deal recommendations and normative for the five priority topics of: 1. Climate; 2. Circular economy; 3. Biodiversity 4. Better air, water, and soil 5. Sustainable agriculture. Advocating for low waste lifestyles and businesses, Mikser will pilot social innovation by hosting online mass events and creating an online platform for dialogue among stakeholders.

35. Foundation Business Plus-New magazine, Serbia- Education and vulnerable categories of citizens during difficult times; €21,700

The objective of the project is to analyze the ability of the system to respond to the coronavirus crisis in adapting to online education while maintaining education standards and to analyze the position of vulnerable groups and their access to services. As such, the project will produce analytical and research contributions.

36. Foundation Nedeljnik, Serbia - **Post-Coronavirus World and Serbia**; €21,700

As part of the project, Nedeljnik will interview the most prominent and most influential philosophers, psychologists, economists, political scientists, intellectuals, and academics in Serbia on the impact of the coronavirus, covering the economic, social, geopolitical, European, and psychological angle. Six investigative reports will be published.

37. Civic Initiatives, Serbia - **The functioning of the economy and its recovery after COVID**; €17.900

The project consists of creating a series of 25 articles about the ways the economy has been functioning since the introduction of the new measures and its recovery in the period after the state of emergency being lifted. The articles would be published on the website portal of Danas daily. Each article would be followed by a short video promoted on Danas' Instagram profile.

- 38. The Hourglass (Pescanik), Serbia Monitoring the introduction, implementation and aftermath of the state of emergency in Serbia during COVID-19; €21,700 The aim of the project is to monitor and analyze the implementation of the measures introduced in the state of emergency, the modification thereof, as well as the introduction of new measures, in the upcoming period, resulting from the coronavirus pandemic.
- 39. Media Association of South-East Europe, Montenegro Covering COVID-19: Media response to the pandemic; €21,700

The project aims to raise awareness of citizens and decision-makers on the impact of the coronavirus on Montenegrin economy, the functioning of institutions, and the response of citizens. The project includes the creation of media content to be disseminated via the TV channel, web portal, and newspapers, as well as social networks, covering Montenegro and the region. Fact checking and in-depth analysis are aimed to provide accurate information and debunk misinformation.

40. Center for Research, Transparency and Accountability CRTA, Serbia - CRTA Media Monitoring 2020; €21,700

This project aims to enhance the transparency, accountability, and integrity of the upcoming 2020 regular parliamentary elections through comprehensive and evidencebased assessment of different aspects of electoral conduct by CRTA's independent observation mission, thus furthering prospects for acceleration of reforms needed for fulfilment of the EU accession criteria, particularly with regard to Serbia's obligations under the Chapter 10: Information society and media, and Chapter 23: Judiciary and fundamental rights of accession negotiations.

- 41. Human Rights House, Serbia Multimedia and Multiplatform news production Destination; €21,700 Multimedia and multiplatform news production 'Destination' aims to examine and analyze the restrictions of movement during the coronavirus pandemic, with the focus on Serbia, during the state of emergency and after. That will also include short and mid-term consequences on freedom of movement as one of the fundamental human rights.
- 42. Press Council, Serbia Support for Media in the Post-Covid-19 Period: Advancing Professional Standards; €21,700 The goal of the proposed project is to contribute to the post-coronavirus media environment in Serbia by improving the quality of print and online media reporting on important issues through media self-regulation. The Press Council will achieve this goal by raising professional standards of reporting in print and online media, in accordance with the Journalist's Code of Ethics.
- 43. Pistaljka (Eutopia Association), Serbia Whistleblower Resource Center Phase II; €100,000

The objective of the project is to lower effects of corruption on the Serbian society by ensuring whistleblower complaints are handled properly, official investigations are conducted in a timely and professional manner, and public prosecutors are trained in investigating public procurement fraud.

- 44. Transparency Serbia **PrEUgovor for Rule of Law and EU integration of Serbia;** €156,192 The objective of the project is to enable civil society to contribute to policy reforms implementation in Chapters 23 and 24 in the new environment of accession negotiations. The project is continuation of prEUgovor coalition activities aligned with the new context for Serbian EU accession and the rule of law and fundamental rights.
- 45. Helsinki Committee for Human Rights in Serbia Chapter 23: Towards full integration of minorities and trustful inter-ethnic relations in Serbia; €62,425 The project aims to support Serbian institutions to adequately respond to the European Union and the Council of Europe's recommendations aimed to revitalize inter-ethnic relations in Serbia and promote genuine intercultural dialogue by analyzing the position of minorities and proposing measures for its improvement, within the Chapter 23 of Serbia's EU negotiation process.