



## Changes for sustainability

This project is funded  
by the European Union



**Project Name:** Changes for sustainability

**Donor:** European Union  
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**Project value:** 276,426.53 EUR

**Implementation period:** 01.03.2017- 01.06.2019

**Target groups and beneficiaries:**

- Civil society organizations (100)
- Institutions and decision makers
- Companies (15)
- Communities

**Implementation:** Association Konekt

**Project partners:** Apollonia Foundation and  
Center for Tax Policy

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The financial sustainability is a key challenge of the civil society organizations (CSOs). Grass-root\* CSOs are particularly vulnerable since they lack capacities to tap into foreign funding and therefore local resource mobilization is of particular importance to them.

“Changes for Sustainability” is an action that gathers CSOs to advocate for legal changes that will create enabling environment for financial sustainability of the civil sector. The project helps grass root organizations to implement local initiatives, cooperate with other stakeholders and to improve their capacity for financial management, transparency and accountability.

We give special attention to building local cross-sector partnerships in which CSOs local institutions and businesses work together to make positive changes in their communities.

### Our expectations

1. Established Network for financial sustainability of CSOs with wide participation of at least 20 relevant CSOs;
2. Evidence based advocacy initiatives for regulatory framework related to financial sustainability of CSOs implemented through dialogue and cooperation with the Government and the business community;
3. Increased capacities of 60 CSOs for financial planning and management in transparent and accountable manner;
4. 14 CSOs launch models for their local initiatives through tripartite partnerships (CSO-institutions-businesses) and local fundraising;
5. Supported and promoted cross-sector partnerships for CSO sustainability.

\*“A grassroots organisation is a self-organised group of individuals pursuing common interests through a volunteer-based, non-profit organisation. Grassroots organizations usually have a low degree of formality but a broader purpose than issue-based self-help groups, community-based organisations or neighborhood-associations.”

Anheier, H./List, R. Dictionary of Civil Society, London: Routledge, 2005



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# KONEKT



### Our objectives:

To contribute towards building thriving environment for financial sustainability of the CSOs in the country

To establish systematic and consolidated advocacy efforts of the CSOs towards enabling financial environment

To increase capabilities of a smaller and grass-root CSOs for financial sustainability and accountability

To empower models of cross-sector partnerships and fundraising for sustainable local initiatives of CSOs

### Activities

#### Establishment of Network for financial sustainability of CSOs

- Network establishment;
- Establishing multi-sector advisory committee;
- Developing programmatic priorities and advocacy action plan of the Network;
- Launching event.

#### Advocacy for CSO financial sustainability

Series of activities for policy dialogue and evidence base advocacy. Our interests for better regulation include:

- Tax treatment of CSOs;
- Tax incentives on donations and sponsorships to CSOs and connection to Public Benefit Status;
- Accounting system for non-profit organizations;
- Mainstreaming the CSOs as employers and support through active measures for employment.

#### Capacity building for financial management, transparency and accountability

- 2 two-day trainings for financial management, financial sustainability, transparency and accountability (50 representatives from CSOs);
- Targeted, tailor-made support to 30 small and grass-root CSOs (interactive and practical);
- Beginners' toolkit for financial planning and management of CSOs;
- Conference on cross-sector partnership for CSOs sustainability.

#### Re-granting

- 2 calls for grants to support in total 14 CSOs;
- Grants from 1000 to 6000 EUR for sustainable local initiatives;
- Local cross-sector partnership supported.