



**UNITED NATIONS GLOBAL COMPACT
Communication of Engagement 2019**

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I am pleased to validate that Centre for Civil Society Promotion (Centar za promociju civilnog društva) from Bosnia and Herzegovina continues to support the ten principles of the UNITED NATIONS GLOBAL COMPACT (UNGC) in particularly, the areas of Human Rights, Labor and Environment.

We are committed to advancing the principles to our employees, partners and young people who attend our program.

We will continue to advocate for better cooperation of business and civil society sector in Bosnia and Herzegovina, teach life skills to young people and will continue to impart the ten principles of the UNGC.

Becoming a member of Global Compact is a great privilege, this has given us the responsibility of upholding our promises to the ten principles of the UNITED NATIONS GLOBAL COMPACT whilst encouraging the young global leaders we bring together to do the same.

We are committed to supporting the ten principles of the UNGC, and we will continue to promote them among our employees, partners and future leaders. I also promise to share my experiences and views for promoting the initiatives of the UN Global Compact and contribute to a more sustainable Global economy.



Sincerely,
Aida Daguda
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Centre for Civil Society Promotion (CCSP) is a local, non-governmental, non-partisan organization, which since its founding in 1996, works on strengthening civil society in B&H and the region. At the same time we build organizational capacity and strengthen own capacities.

Our strategic goals in the coming years are: the creation of an enabling environment for civil society development; promotion and development of civic engagement and participatory democracy and institutional development of CCSP. Our vast experience in democratic processes resulted in institutionalized partnership of civil society organizations and authorities at different levels. We are specialized in building capacity of social entities and individuals.

Our activities are in line with our objectives and priorities:

- The planning and implementation of advocacy and lobbying campaigns, information sharing, awareness raising and promotion of good practice;
- Monitoring and evaluation of results and impact of public policies, including public policies for support and development of civil society;
- Organization of conferences, professional meetings, counselling, seminars, workshops; trainings;
- Analysis and research in key areas of CCSP's scope of work;
- Providing training services and technical assistance, mentoring and consulting services;
- Networking, making coalitions and partnerships.

Our Vision: Bosnia and Herzegovina as an open and democratic society, in which representatives of government, civil society and business sector work in partnership for the common good and welfare of all its citizens and peoples.

Our Mission: The promotion and development of civil society and democracy in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

During two-year period (2017 and 2018) Centre for Civil Society Promotion promoted corporate social responsibility by set of published articles and information on its website and social media, as well by set of specially designed activities.

Three **advocacy initiatives** were conducted (continuing further in 2019):

1. Advocating for stimulating tax framework for strengthening of individual and corporate philanthropy;

By in-depth analysis, drafting quality legislative amendments and activities directed towards entity governments, CCSP succeeded in income tax abolition for civil society organizations in the Republic of Srpska (one of the two entities of Bosnia and Herzegovina), as well as to include social services as an activity of public interest. This solution expands the circle of activities for nontaxable tax expense in amount of 3% of total revenue for potential donors. The same set of legislative proposals and activities aimed at their adoption will be continued in 2019, toward the FB&H Government, as well as to both entities when it comes to individual philanthropy for individuals. This initiative was started three years ago, but government at entity level was not responsive to these ideas so far.

2. Promotion and implementation of the Code of Ethics and good governance in CSOs in B&H

CCSP believes that CSOs can count on credibility and legitimacy of partners and the public only if they consistently apply in practice the core values and principles for which they advocate for and declaratively support. For this reason, CCSP will create a 'Code of Conduct for CSOs in BiH' and advocate for transparency and accountability of the civil society sector, which should practice everything that sector as such advocates, and act in accordance with the standards of solidarity, transparency, independence, accountability, legality, professional relationship with users and public. The Code of Ethics for CSOs

Within the campaign for the promotion and introduction of the Code of Ethics for CSOs, were held four focus groups in Sarajevo, Tuzla, Mostar, and Banja Luka. A total of 37 representatives of CSOs took part and made their comments and suggestions. The focus group had a consultative character with the aim of exchanging information and providing concrete suggestions for the preparation of a draft of the Code of Ethics for civil society organizations in BiH. Then, all civil society organizations in BiH are enabled to give suggestions on the drafted document in a public hearing. Comments were mostly based on suggestions that CSOs need to be extremely transparent, to respect each other and build partnership relationships, and that these principles are easy to accept but more difficult to implement. Based on the collected suggestions, the draft was put on a wide public debate in order to process and formulate the final version with the completion of this process. The draft of the Code of Ethics for CSOs in BiH was in the phase of extensive electronic consultations by the end of April 2018. After conducting electronic consultations and submitted proposals and comments from the nongovernmental sector, the CSSP project rounded up the process of creating the Code of Ethics for CSOs. The document has been finalized and available for signing to all CSOs in BiH since December 2018 after submitted proposals and comments by the non-governmental sector. So far, the Ethical Process has been signed by 150 organizations.

3. Supporting good governance

Small Grants Program (SGP) in frame of Independent Media Empowerment Program (IMEP) supported by USAID is intended to strengthen citizens' active participation in social change in the communities they live in as well as to equip CSOs and particularly local media with knowledge and skills to better represent their constituencies and members and to effectively advocate on their own behalf. To achieve this, SGP supported initiatives of creating socially engaged media content by citizens journalists (especially young people), local media and partnerships between media and CSOs.

CCSP strengthened them by offering financial assistance (small grants) and learning opportunities (capacity building support), while investing in efforts to share best practices and enable others to make use of positive experience. This program approach is based on CCSP's belief that creating democracy demands a bottom up approach - this is why this program supported "ordinary" people in local communities, recognizing that they are the only ones able to identify problems and offer solutions.

SMART START Project. CCSP promoted cooperation between business and local CSOs by organizing a mentoring program for CSOs who established social enterprises in Bosnia and Herzegovina, but also in Serbia, Montenegro, North Macedonia, and Turkey through its regional program Smart Start, supported by EU. The project aims to strengthen CSOs' advocacy and networking capacities, improve internal governance structures, diversify funding base through establishment of social entrepreneurship and elaboration of strategic long-term organisational plan. These results enabled a generation of new and more professional CSOs more dedicated to their mission, citizens and society at large as well as partnership of CSOs and the business sector in all 5 countries, bringing mutual benefits to all parties. Objective of this project is to help create an enabling environment for social entrepreneurship of civil society organizations (CSOs) and to improve their sustainability, financial viability and social impact in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Turkey.

Smart Start project aims to:

- strengthen CSOs advocacy and networking capacities,
- improve internal governance structures,
- diversify funding base through establishment of social entrepreneurship and elaboration of strategic long-term organisational plan.

During 2017 and 2018, Smart Start has continued working on the program for strengthening entrepreneurship capacities for 20 civil society organizations in Bosnia and Herzegovina, with a goal for development and support of a sustainable business model in accordance with their applied ideas. By mapping CSO needs with the OECA questionnaire (organizational evaluation of entrepreneurship capacities) and specially made trainings, in accordance to the results of OECA, Smart Start has continued to carry out the programme which resulted in creating 20 business plans, adapted for their work, and potential grantees from the 120.000 KM Smart Start fund. Smart Start program has hired 6 trainers from the field of entrepreneurship, business, legislation, sales and marketing, with a goal of providing CSOs with the best quality program for strengthening capacities.

To cover the wider picture of the state of Civil society in the region, a regional research was conducted, and it involved over 200 CSOs from Serbia, Turkey, Macedonia, Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina. This research is publicly available on www.smartstart4u.org , which has also

supported development activities of the advocacy campaigns. This research has produced general recommendations for Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as policies that need to be conducted within BiH, through a multisectoral approach in working with institutions, business sector and civil society, with a goal of improving the environment where CSOs conduct their business. This research defines three key areas that need to be focused on:

1. Clearly define policies or strategies for social entrepreneurship development,
2. Development of social entrepreneurship business plans and CSO ideas,
3. Raising awareness of citizens on social entrepreneurship in BiH.

Following the results of the questionnaire CCSP organized **two tailor made trainings** for organizations on “Business and Cooperation” and “Public Relations and Communication”. Two highly experienced trainers in the field of Corporate Social Responsibility practice and PR and Communication, held two-day training. During training participants learned about:

- Basic principles, practices and recommendations in the area of (CSR);
- Highlighting the benefits that companies achieve a practicing CSR (business case), as well as ways of practical application of CSR in the company;
- Information about socially responsible initiatives (UNGC and ISO 26000) in Bosnia and Herzegovina and its objectives and activities;