



**The Government
of Montenegro**

THE STRATEGY

OF COOPERATION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF MONTENEGRO AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

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**THE STRATEGY OF COOPERATION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF MONTENEGRO AND
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The Strategy of Cooperation of the Government of Montenegro and Non-governmental Organizations was adopted for the sake of advancing the cooperation between the Government of Montenegro and non-governmental organizations and creating conditions in which citizens and non-governmental organizations in partnership with other social actors would participate in the development of Montenegro as a democratic and open society guided by tolerance and understanding; respect for different points of view and different opinions, dialogue and argument-supported presentation of facts; principles of sustainable development, interaction, responsibility and equal opportunities for all; with respect for independence of non-governmental organizations and by creating inspiring context for their work whereby they would contribute accordingly to Montenegro's success on the path to European and Euro-Atlantic integrations.

1. INTRODUCTION

The cooperation of the Government of Montenegro and non-governmental organizations is particularly important for developing democratic society in Montenegro, raising awareness of citizens about importance of their active participation in social affairs, development and enhancement of normative framework and institutional mechanisms of cooperation.

Acting in favor of this goal and for the sake of further democratization, promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, exercise of principle of pluralism and freedom of association, the Government of Montenegro (hereinafter referred to as: the Government) adopted the document titled "Basis for Cooperation of the Government of Montenegro and Non-governmental Organizations" (hereinafter referred to as: Basis for Cooperation) that set forth goals and principles that the cooperation with non-governmental organizations (hereinafter referred to as: NGOs) would rest upon.

The need for partnership between NGOs and institutions of the state in managing the process of development of the society is also indicated in documents and statements of international organizations such as the United Nations, Council of Europe (Basic Principles of the Status of NGOs in Europe), European Union (White Book on European Management/ Governance from 2001 which points out the importance of having these organizations involved in consultative processes) and OSCE (Declaration on the Basic Principles of the Status of NGOs in Europe from 2004).

Having in mind the facts above on one side, and readiness and commitment of the Government to advancing mutual cooperation on the other, adopting the document "Strategy of Cooperation of the Government of Montenegro and Non-governmental Organizations" (Hereinafter referred to as: the Strategy) as a public document by which the Government establishes partnership with the NGO, manner of information exchange and mechanisms of joint oversight of the implementation of this document was deemed worthwhile.

From the standpoint of Montenegro's strategic commitment to European and Euro-Atlantic Integration and to meeting membership criteria, it is necessary to point out the importance and role of the NGOs in the association process, particularly in providing conditions for their involvement in regulatory reform as well as into the procedure of harmonization of national legal order with the requirements of the *Acquis*.

1.1. Reasons for adopting the Strategy

The need to define a model in which the two sectors can operate in complementary way without prejudice to the independence and impartiality of NGOs and their right to be critical about Government's policies, coupled with the complexity of their relation and the dilemma that it generates in public, called for defining the cooperation in a transparent way.

NGOs have been recognized as the "third sector", next to the Government and for-profit sector, and as such they have a significant role in society. By their engagements, services they deliver and support NGOs give to individuals and different social groups, as independent organizations they have impact on democratization of society and raising awareness of citizens along with encouraging their participation in decision making about public policies.

The cooperation of the Government and NGOs is therefore necessary because the basic role of the Government, being a body of the executive branch of power, is to create public policy and make decisions that will have impact on economy and society, on rights and obligations of citizens, whereas NGOs are forms of their organized activity.

Growing importance is attached to the NGOs in the world. Moreover, there is not a single social problem in which they do not get involved. Current processes indicate to the fact that further development of modern societies will be marked with greater participation of these organizations in various fields of social life, work and organization. That is why NGOs are more and more considered as "new partners" of state authorities and institutions. They are important advocates of social, political, economic and cultural interests. This consequently gives incentive to partnership between the state and civil society towards greater integration of civil actors into development and safeguarding of democracy.

When the values of civil society and open society, and development of democracy in Montenegro are concerned, activities of the Government and NGO sector do correspond, which indicates to the need to establish partnership between them. This is insomuch as the Government and NGOs strive to contribute to successful completion of the transition process and development of Montenegro as an open society. This entails creation of a setting in which NGOs will be social factors that contribute to society and in which the Government and NGOs would not be perceived as conflicting sides.

2. STATE OF PLAY

Having perceived the importance of non-governmental sector Montenegro adopted the Law on Non-governmental Organizations ("Official Gazette of the RoM No. 27/99, 09/02, 30/02, "Official Gazette of Montenegro" No. 11/07) that grants legitimate right to citizens to cater for their diverse interests through various forms of free association. Thereby it created necessary presumptions for activities of NGOs as an important factor in society that strives to build civil and open society.

Through their work so far and their involvement in social life NGOs have given significant contribution to greater fulfillment of citizens' needs and interests and at the same time they have become a sort of a bridge between the incumbency and citizens and indispensable partner of state authorities and institutions. According to the data collected by the Ministry of Interior and Public Administration in 2008 there were 4.484 registered NGOs (societies and foundations) in Montenegro. The register does not have information or indicators about fields in which NGOs are active, nor about their activities, whereas the general estimate is that the number of NGOs that have been continuously active is relatively small compared to the total number of those NGOs that have been registered in the register.

According to the data base maintained by the Center for Development of NGOs (CRNVO) that covers 1400 organizations in total, the largest number of NGOs is engaged in cultural and artistic activities as well as in social and humanitarian ones, whereas fewest of them are active in the field of legislation, advocacy and public policy, problems of refugees and internally displaced persons; the largest number of NGOs have their seat in Podgorica and Niksic, and fewest of them in Savnik and Pluzine; regarding regional distribution, the largest number of NGOs come from the central region of Montenegro, then from southern and fewest of them from the north; almost half of NGOs use e-mails, whereas almost 1/10 organizations have web-sites.

Law on State Administration ("Official Gazette of the RoM", No. 38/03, and "Official Gazette of Montenegro", No. 22/08) stipulates that ministries and other authorities of the state have to ensure cooperation with NGOs that will be exercised particularly in: procedures of drafting laws that stipulate the manner in which liberties and rights of wo/man are exercised; their participation in the work of working groups on issues of common interest, and issues' normative definition; organization of common public consultations and other forms of common activities and exchanging information on program of activities and reporting on activities of state administration.

NGOs have been ever more present in advancing and accomplishing public interests, and in promoting overall position of civil society, primarily through their involvement in drafting of laws and strategic documents of the Government and their involvement in the work of Government's working bodies. So far NGOs have drafted or taken part in drafting of a certain number of laws and strategic documents such as: Public Procurement Law, Law on National Intelligence Agency, Law on Free Access to Information, Law on Police, Law on Conflict of Interest, Law on Witness Protection, Law on Traffic Security, National Strategy for Sustainable Development, Defense Strategy, Program for Fighting Corruption and Organized Crime, Strategy for Development and Poverty Reduction, Strategy for Social and Child Protection, Strategy for Developing System for Social Welfare for Elderly, Strategy for

Integration of Disabled Persons etc. The NGO representatives also take part in the teams that monitor the implementation of strategic documents.

However, there is still a considerable scope and need to improve the cooperation between the Government and state administration and NGOs, particularly in terms of providing higher degree of transparency in drafting and implementation of public policies.

The data collected from the research conducted by CRNVO published in 2006 under the title "Cooperation of the Government and NGOs" indicated that the largest number of state agencies hold grudge against NGOs for the fact that they are not active enough and that some NGOs developed a practice of continuously criticizing the work of state bodies. Most of representatives from state agencies think that NGOs do not have enough trained staff and that there is a big rift within non-governmental sector. However, they understand the importance of the trainings that civil servants and support their further trainings on the role and importance of NGOs and relations with them and other organizations from civil sector.

The largest number of NGOs, on the other side, underscores that the cooperation between NGOs and the Government is not at satisfactory level and they blame it on the lack of understanding by state bodies' of the importance of NGOs in realizing certain activities. According to NGOs, there are prejudices about NGOs in state administration and they are still perceived as a contenders or opposition, and not as partners. The NGO representatives perceive the lack of constructive communication although the affirmative rhetoric is used by representatives of state bodies to depict the significance of their cooperation with NGOs. They indicate that the problem in relation to cooperation could be blamed on: few public consultations organized, reports from public consultations were not accessible to everyone (although the reports should have listed proposals made at public consultations and the comments on proposals submitted by drafters); the fact that few state authorities have a data base on NGOs that are active in field of their competence, which makes their cooperation difficult; inadequate access to reports on the work of ministries and other bodies of the state; obsolete Internet home pages of the Government and of some ministries as well, particularly in relation to drafts, draft acts and documents of public policy.

We need to indicate that socio-economic context in Montenegro is still not inspiring enough for NGOs' work. The largest number of organizations does not have minimal conditions for work – necessary financial means, offices and equipment, literature etc. Media context is not satisfactory either since the NGO activities are reported in unsystematic way and NGOs are affected by that, but equally so is the public that did not get appropriate explanation of the role and importance of NGOs.

The issue of EU and Euro-Atlantic integrations is very important for the society in general, and therefore the cooperation between the Government and NGOs in this field is very important and necessary. The Stabilization and Association Agreement and European Partnership earmarked the cooperation between the Government and NGOs is a distinctive part of the process of meeting conditions for accession into the EU. Namely, this issue was defined in the Preamble to the SAA which points to the obligation of contracting parties to deploy all their means to contribute to political, economic and institutional stabilization of Montenegro and the whole region through *inter alia* "development of civil society and democratization, institutional development and the reform of state administration".

Some NGOs that demonstrated their interest in drafting and implementing the Communication Strategy for Informing the Public in Montenegro on the Process of EU Integrations, participated in that process. For the purpose of drafting such strategic document from 2004, the Secretariat for European Integrations in cooperation with the NGOs prepares annual action plans for its implementation as well as joint reports on the activities that have been carried out and both documents, are adopted by the Government. Apart from that, the Coalition of NGOs "Through Cooperation To Goals" argues that there are not enough mechanisms in Montenegro for continuous information exchange and involvement of NGOs in monitoring the process of integration of Montenegro into the EU, and that they have not been sufficiently involved in the consultation process and in defining priorities for programs for Pre-accession Funds.

In relation to the arguments presented above, in the final stages of adoption of the National Program for Integration of Montenegro in the EU (8th May 2008), Secretariat for European Integration and 11 NGOs composed and signed the Cooperation Agreement as well as the Action Plan of the Secretariat for European Integrations and NGO partners for implementation of the Communication Strategy for Informing the Public in Montenegro on the Process of EU Integrations in 2008. The Agreement envisaged cooperation in field of implementation of the reforms necessary for implementation of the Stabilization and Association Agreement, building administrative capacities and harmonization with *acquis*, implementation of the Communication Strategy for Informing the Public in Montenegro on the Process of EU Integrations, preparations for use of pre-accession funds of the EU, development of economic and social cohesion and preservation of natural and cultural heritage as well as protection of environment and sustainable development. The Agreement is an open document that can take other non-governmental organizations and other organizations of civil society on board.

The Communication Strategy for Euro-Atlantic integrations of Montenegro, clearly defines NGOs as partners and they were involved in realization of action plans for its implementation. The Coordination team for the Implementation of the Communication Strategy signed the Memorandum on Cooperation with seven non-governmental organizations with the aim to raise awareness of the citizens of Montenegro about Euro-Atlantic integrations, and develop partnership with state authorities and timely exchange of information on Euro-Atlantic integrations, based on the principle of tolerance and understanding, respect for rights and different opinions and views, and reasoned presentation of facts.

Other prerequisites for sustainable development of NGOs such as the culture of giving (that covers individuals and businesses giving something for a good cause through NGOs) and volunteerism as an important presumption for better functioning of NGOs, have not been developed enough. Likewise, in field of education there are no appropriate mechanisms to ensure incentives for further development of capacities of NGOs in education and use potentials that can contribute to developing the concept of lifelong learning.

The fact that philanthropy (culture of giving to good causes) is not developed enough in Montenegro is a consequence of the fact that business sector and NGOs are poorly informed about legal potentials inherent to the incentives for businesses that give donations for realization of NGO activities. On the other side, businesses think that existing legislative mechanisms do not provide enough incentives and that they should be improved.

Volunteerism or voluntary work is one of the ways in which citizens can integrate into society and contribute to changing the way we live and changing their own way of life, and life of local community. Volunteers are an important factor in each society, and they represent an enormous pool of knowledge, skills, local insight into the problems and individuals who are social hubs in society. So far the potentials of volunteerism have been recognized by NGOs only, but there is a considerable scope yet for its implementation and development within state administration structures.

Development and implementation of the concept of life long learning, particularly in the field of civic education (activities through which the young and elderly are trained to actively participate in democratic life and to exercise their rights and responsibilities in society), has not integrated NGO potential in appropriate measure. However, positive changes are visible in Montenegro in relation to informal and life long learning, regardless of the fact that many trainings that are delivered by NGOs to various users ranging from businesses, civil sector and citizens have not been formally verified due to the fact that education system is dominated by classical – institutional education forms. By adopting new laws in the field of education, the Strategy for Education of Adults, Strategy for Civic Education (2007-2010) and the Strategy for Life Long Entrepreneurial Learning (2008-2013), created presumptions for development and advancement of these segments of education and involvement of NGOs in the processes mentioned above, and now after the Examination Center was established, it meets one of the requirements for verification of the knowledge and skills acquired in informal education.

From the standpoint of realization of principles of equal opportunities for all, NGOs that work with disabled persons point out that the problem of unequal opportunities for such persons still persists, with reference to the fact that there are a lot of active NGOs in this field. One of the problems encountered by the disabled persons in Montenegro is their physical environment that is not adjusted to their needs. This problem has become an insurmountable impediment to integration of disabled persons in society. Slowness in addressing this problem affects all spheres of disabled persons' lives: affects or obstructs their full time education in case of children and youth, employment, integration in social life starting with culture, sports, socialization etc. With a view to address these problems, the Government of Montenegro adopted the Strategy for Integration of Disabled Persons in Montenegro.

The Law on Non-Governmental Organizations and the Law on Games of Chance, together with by-laws (Regulation on Criteria for Defining Beneficiaries and Manner of Allocation of Income Generated from Games of Chance, the Parliament's Regulation of Criteria, Manner and Procedure for Budgetary Allocation of the Funds for NGO) regulate the issue of allocation of funds from the Budget of Montenegro for funding of NGO projects. Apart from that, the Law on Corporate Income Tax defines that NGOs are allowed to have untaxed income up to EUR 4000; the Law on Real Estate Tax prescribed that this tax will not be levied on NGOs' real estate provided it is used for their program-based activities for the purpose of which they were formed; the Law on Administrative Taxes sets forth that NGOs are exempted from paying tax for activities that pursue the goals for which they were established; the Law on VAT has under certain conditions exempted NGOs from paying tax on their services.

In the previous period the stumbling block in the process of allocation of funds as seen by NGOs was: unavailability of information on funded projects (i.e. the projects that were funded are not published on the Commission's Web-site in full text), inappropriate system

of allocation (minimum threshold for participation in funding the full value of projects has not been specified), lack of data on the projects that have been completed (system of monitoring and appraisal of project's delivery has not been developed), NGOs cannot participate through its representative/s in the work of the Commission for allocation of funds, carrying out, administrative work for commissions in relation to realization of their decision on allocation (the contracts with NGOs whose projects got support are not signed and there is no obligation to report on projects' progress) etc.

Acting upon the initiative of the Coalition of NGOs, the Government adopted a new Regulation on Criteria for Defining Beneficiaries and Manner of Allocation of Income Generated from Games of Chance (Official Gazette of Montenegro, 45/08) which prescribes *inter alia* that NGOs are represented through their two representatives in the Commission for allocation of these funds.

NGOs think that tax relief is not satisfactory for this stage of development and that NGOs are weighted down by different sorts of levies, which considerably affects their capacity to have harmonious development and financial sustainability.

On the whole, there is a considerable scope for introducing and streamlining measures of public policy for the sake of creating stimulating framework for further development of NGOs and the context in which they operate.

2.1 Legislative framework for establishment and operation of NGOs

2.1.1 General Legislation

General legislative framework for non-governmental organizations' activities is enshrined in the Constitution of Montenegro and in the Law on Non-governmental Organizations.

The Constitution of Montenegro grants freedom of political, trade union and association and action without any approval whatsoever, by registration with the competent authority.

The Law on Non-governmental organization defines NGO as a non-governmental associations and non-governmental foundations. Non-governmental association has been defined as a "non-profit organization with members founded by domestic or foreign physical or legal person for the purpose of exercising their individual or common interest or for the purpose of realization and affirmation of public interest". Non-governmental foundation is a non-profit organization without membership that is founded by a local or foreign physical or legal person for the purpose of pooling resources and assets for the sake of pursuing charity and other activities which are of public interest and importance".

This Law prescribes that the state will provide material support to NGOs by providing means for that from the Budget of Montenegro and that the funds are to be allocated by the Commission appointed by the Parliament of Montenegro. This Law stipulates the terms by which NGOs can directly engage in business activity.

The Law on Non-governmental Organizations is considered the most liberal in the region and judged by the NGOs themselves as a good foundation for straightforward registra-

tion and activity of non-governmental organizations, non-governmental foundations and foreign non-governmental organizations in Montenegro.

2.1 Special legislation

Many issues, specifics and exemptions pertaining to the activity of NGOs are regulated by other legislation, too:

- **The Law on Games of Chance** ("Official Gazette of the RoM", No. 52/04 and the "Official Gazette of M", No. 13/07) stipulates that the minimum of 75% of income from games of chance that is set aside for non-governmental and other organizations shall be used for funding NGO plans and programs;
- **Law on Corporate Income Tax** ("Official Gazette of the RoM", No. 65/01, 12/02, 80/04 and "Official Gazette of M" No. 40/08) defines the threshold for non-taxable income of non-governmental organizations;
- **Law on Real Estate Tax** ("Official Gazette of the RoM", No. 69/03 and "Official Gazette of M", No. 17/07) stipulates that this tax shall not be levied on NGOs' property provided it is used in pursuit of the goals they were founded for;
- **Law on Administrative Taxes** ("Official Gazette of the RoM", No. 55/03, 46/04, 81/05, 2/06 and "Official Gazette of M", No. 22/08), stipulates that NGOs are exempted from tax for activities pursuing the goals they were founded for;
- **Law on Value Added Tax** ("Official Gazette of the RoM", No. 65/01, 12/02, 38/02, 72/02, 21/03, 76/05, 4/06 and the "Official Gazette of M", No. 16/07), exempts NGOs from paying this tax on their services under certain conditions.
- **Law on Environmental Protection** ("Official Gazette of M", No. 48/08) etc.

In addition, some laws defined the participation of NGO representatives in working bodies and other forums of competent institutions such as: Broadcasting Law ("Official Gazette of the RoM", No. 51/02, 62/02, 46/04, 56/04, 77/06 and "Official Gazette of M", No. 50/08), Law on Public Broadcasting Services of Montenegro ("Official Gazette of M", No. 79/08), Police Law ("Official Gazette of the RoM", No. 28/05), Law on Health Protection ("Official Gazette of the RoM", 39/04), Law on Environmental Impact Assessment ("Official Gazette of the RoM", No. 80/05) etc.

2.2. Institutional framework for cooperation between the Government and NGOs

2.2.1. Office for Cooperation with NGOs

In compliance with the document "Basis for Cooperation", the Office for Cooperation with Non-governmental Organizations was established as an organizational unit of the General Secretariat of the Government and as an institutional mechanism for such cooperation.

The Office is engaged in activities pertaining to drafting plans, programs, projects and other activities in compliance with principles and goals set forth in the document titled "Basis of Cooperation" and in other documents by means of:

- developing mutual cooperation and coordination,
- refraining from influencing independence of NGOs,
- promoting transparency of its work and work of NGOs with a view to building an open and democratic society.

The Office also conducts activities on coordination of the work of state authorities in field of cooperation with NGOs, as well as their education and networking into the intra-net, which is an internal infrastructure for cooperation between state administration and NGOs.

2.2.2. Network of focal points for cooperation with NGOs

In compliance with the document "Basis for Cooperation" a network of focal points for cooperation with NGOs was established from appointed individuals from the ministries and other state authorities.

CRNVO and the Office are engaged in joint activity for focal points within the project "Building Capacities of Civil Servants from State Administration for Cooperation with NGOs" with a view to providing opportunity for better direct and immediate cooperation between authorities of state administration and NGOs. The project aims to achieve the following:

- a) education of focal points for cooperation with NGOs;
- b) enhancing cooperation and communication between non-governmental organizations and the Government in field of meeting principles and obligations of the Government of Montenegro ensuing from the document titled "Basis for Cooperation of the Government the Republic of Montenegro and NGOs",
- c) networking civil servants who are entrusted with cooperation with NGOs.

3. GOALS, PRINCIPLES AND FORMS OF COOPERATION

3.1. Cooperation goals

The goals of cooperation are the following:

- Building democratic and open society in the context of developing European integration processes and the process of Euro-Atlantic integrations of Montenegro;
- Improving transparency and safeguarding independence and importance of the role of NGOs;
- Establishing partner relations between NGOs and state institutions;
- Exercising and streamlining complementary and interactive relations for the sake of more efficient social development;
- Creating diverse institutional mechanisms for improving and further development of cooperation and communication;
- Improving the conditions for NGOs' work.

3.2. Cooperation principles

Cooperation of the Government and NGOs will be guided by the following principles:

Partnership – The Government and NGOs will cooperate on the basis of partnership in all fields of interest for citizens and community, guided by the principle of equal opportunities for all;

Transparency – The Government and NGOs will present information on their work in a timely manner;

Responsibility – The Government and NGOs will bear full responsibility for realization of their joint activities;

Information exchange – The Government and NGOs will exchange information on their plans, programs and activities in a timely manner;

Independence of non-governmental organizations – The Government will keep on undertaking measures on creating conditions for independent work and activities of NGOs in compliance with their acts, supporting their independence and right to a critical appraisal of the Government's work.

3.3. Cooperation forms

The cooperation will evolve in the following forms:

Consultations – consulting NGOs in the process of drafting and adoption of new legislation, by-laws and other regulations and acts;

Advising – co-organizing conferences, round tables, seminars and other forms of cooperation;

Joint activities – work on drafting strategic documents, defining priorities, operational programs and realization of policies, as well as on joint evaluation of the effects of the Government’s policies in all fields;

Developing regulatory presumptions for activities of NGOs – initiating adoption and amendment of present acts of legislation and by-laws as well as other regulations pertaining to the position and functioning of NGOs by means of involving NGOs in those processes.

4. GENERAL OBJECTIVES OF THE STRATEGY

4.1. Improving legislative framework for the foundation and operation of NGOs

Based on the goals, principles and forms of cooperation envisaged in the Strategy, the work on improving legislative framework for the foundation and operation of NGOs by means of amending and supplementing existing regulation and adopting new ones as the top priority among its (the Strategy's) general objectives.

In the process of drafting regulations, the Government will rely upon relevant international documents, good practices in the EU countries and on partnership with NGOs and other stakeholders in the community and it will make sure to disseminate information thereof in timely and integral manner to the public at large.

Competent authorities of the state and relevant NGOs will particularly focus on establishing indicators, stock of information and standards that are relevant for keeping and presenting statistics about NGOs that can be used as a basis for analysis of the various aspects of work, development and perspectives of NGOs, that can be used for analysis of different aspects of work, development and perspectives of NGOs and in relation to promotion of normative framework in general (laws and by-laws) and the reform of the system of official statistics.

4.2. Improving institutional framework for cooperation with NGOs

4.2.1. Building capacities of the Office for Cooperation with NGOs

The Government will build capacities of the Office for Cooperation with NGOs by means of vesting it with appropriate competencies, recruiting new staff, providing for specific education in relation to special knowledge and necessary skills etc.

With a view to encouraging partnership and cooperation it will initiate procedure for drafting a comprehensive data base and tailor-made IT application so as to enable the Office to operate with utmost efficiency as a coordinator of cooperation between the Government and state authorities on one side, and NGOs on the other. Parts of that data base will have special links to the data bases in authorities in state administration.

With a view to improving communication i.e. exchange of information with state authorities and NGOs, improving transparency in the work of the Office and informing public about its work, the Office will design its official presentation on the Internet (as a part of the Government's web-portal) that will present information on organization, activities, important documents, publications, conferences etc.

4.2.2 Improving conditions for work of focal points for cooperation with NGOs

State authorities will provide conditions for efficient work of focal points for cooperation with NGOs by means of writing their terms of reference in their organizational statutes

and job classification acts, by providing necessary equipment (for keeping data base) and means for continuous education on the role of organizations of civil society, significance and need to have cooperation between authorities of the state and NGOs, models and mechanisms of cooperation and communication, as well as appropriate training for keeping and updating data base.

In the process of acquiring specific knowledge and skills, NGOs will contribute accordingly.

4.2.3. Establishing the Council for Cooperation with NGOs

The Government will establish the Council for Cooperation with NGOs, as an advisory and think-tank body that will be engaged in overall monitoring of the realization of the Strategy and the Action Plan as well as on achieving goals that were set and improving cooperation and communication between the authorities of the state and NGOs.

The Council will be composed of the representatives of the Government, ministries and NGOs whose missions and fields of action are relative to the competencies of ministries. The terms of reference, composition and mandate of the Council will be determined by a special act of the Government.

Once a year the Council will report to the Government about its work and state of play in the cooperation between the Government and NGOs and propose measures for improving it.

The Office for Cooperation with NGOs will provide administrative support and expertise for the work of the Council.

5. SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES OF THE STRATEGY

5.1. Improving information activities, consultations, and the participation of NGOs in the development and evaluation of public policy delivery

5.1.1. Developing culture of dialogue and the principle of NGOs' independence

The Government and NGOs will foster culture of dialogue and respect of the other and otherness in their relations and particularly in communication to public. In this sense, they will promote and advocate respect of universal human rights, defined in international treaties (including UN Declaration on rights and responsibilities of individuals, groups and entities in society on promotion and protection of universally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms), by the Constitution and other legislation in force in Montenegro.

In compliance with relevant international and national documents that enshrine right to freedom of expression, the Government will respect the right of NGOs to criticize the work of the Government and its state administration and in that way contribute to strengthening democracy, responsibility of officials of state, to the quality, transparency and legality of work of state authorities and the culture of dialogue.

In compliance with the objective stated above, the Government will present arguments, facts and information that will objectively prove or contest, accept or dismiss criticisms, proposals or suggestions.

NGOs will also, support their public or internal criticisms on the account of the Government or its authorities with concrete proposals and suggestions, with arguments for solving a certain problem or advancing certain public policy, and give initiative for adopting, amendment or supplement of a certain act of public policy.

5.1.2. Improving information dissemination to NGOs

Respecting the principle of transparency, as one of the presumptions of democracy, the Government will regularly, both in direct communication and by means of media and the Internet, inform the public and NGOs alike about its activities and about the documents it adopts.

On its Internet portal the Government and its authorities will in timely manner and by means of general and specific e-mail lists publish information on commencement of activities on drafting certain acts, publish their working documents and drafts, and disseminate information on ways and means for NGOs' participation in this process.

The Government and authorities of the state expect that NGOs will in timely and due way inform them about their activities and the projects that are under way.

The competent body in the Government for keeping the register of NGOs will put the NGO register on the Web and it will update it regularly (every 15 days).

5.1.3. Developing the process of consultations with NGOs

For the purpose of promoting social values and partnership relations and ensuring transparency of the public policy development process, involvement of citizens and appropriate and quality contribution of NGOs to evaluation of the success of public policies, information dissemination and consultations with NGOs on the process of preparation of plans, strategies and other general acts will be provided.

The Government will enable consultations with NGOs in relation to defining draft laws and other documents that determine public policies that are relative to the rights and obligations of citizens. In relation to that, an appropriate act will define in greater detail the issues of information dissemination, consultation and participation of NGOs in the process of adopting laws and by-laws, plans, strategies and other general acts as well as programs for realization of public policies.

In compliance with their policies and goals that are defined in this Strategy, the ministries and other authorities of the state will arrange for special memoranda on cooperation to be signed with NGOs that are active in their respective fields. By means of that they will advance their relations and various forms of cooperation and through joint activities they will ensure for greater involvement of NGOs in creating public policies i.e. development of social, cultural, economic and political life of the state.

Consultation process can be realized through organizing round tables, meetings and other forms of joint activities (joint teams for drafting strategic documents and plans, laws and projects) throughout that process. The Government and authorities of the state will make sure to solicit involvement of qualified NGOs from relevant fields.

NGOs will regularly, at least once year, submit information about activities that they have carried out, human resources and their credentials to the ministries and other authorities of state with which they have had complementary activities. The information thereof will be filed in the Office for Cooperation with NGOs.

5.1.4 Providing greater participation of NGOs in the bodies established by the Government, ministries and other bodies

Starting from the premise of different roles and responsibilities that authorities of the state and NGOs have in addressing the issues pertaining to the development of community at large, it is necessary to find an appropriate way to ensure more substantive participation of NGO members in bodies and working groups that develop and administer policies.

The Office for Cooperation with NGOs, ministries and other authorities will create and maintain data bases on the NGOs that demonstrated their interest in cooperation, communication, and participation in work of joint working groups, information exchange and consultations relevant to the competencies of a respective authority. The data from that data bases will be used for selecting representatives of NGOs to relevant bodies and working groups.

The criteria and procedure for selecting NGOs' representatives for relevant bodies and working groups will be regulated by a separate act to be drafted together with NGOs. In proposing new legislation that envisages participation of NGO representatives in coun-

cils and regulatory bodies, in cooperation with NGOs the criteria will be defined as well as procedure for selecting relevant representatives of the NGOs for those bodies or a separate by-law will be adopted to regulate this issue.

5.2. Developing more stimulating environment for NGOs' activities

5.2.1 Increasing NGOs' participation in the processes of European and Euro-Atlantic integrations

European integrations represent a process that touches upon all segments of political, economic and social life of a country. That is why NGOs are very active in monitoring and supporting the developments pertaining to the EU integrations. The process of accession to the EU can be a catalyst for adopting European principles of good governance and a fertile ground for strengthening culture of dialogue and establishing efficient mechanisms of cooperation between the Government and NGOs.

The Government will keep on providing continuous public dialogue on the process of association and accession of Montenegro to the EU, various aspects of that process, negotiations, reforms and results, as well as about more substantive involvement of NGOs into the realization of the Communication Strategy for Informing Public about the EU Accession Process.

The Government will also enable involvement of NGO representatives into the process of the *acquis'* translation in certain fields by using their professional potential and expertise.

The Government will make information and data pertaining to the use of EU accession funds available in timely manner and enable participation of NGOs into the process of establishing priority areas to be funded from those pre-accession funds.

In relation to the use of EU pre-accession funds, the Government will consider possibilities for defining mechanisms for co-financing NGO projects that will be funded from EU funds from the income generated by games of chance.

The Government will support the efforts of NGOs to establish and maintain relations with partners from the countries of the region, EU member states and EU institutions, from non-governmental side, as well as from official administrative structures of member states and of the EU.

In the process of training civil servants on specific issues pertaining to the process of the European integrations and of the representatives of those NGOs that can assume a significant role in informing and preparing citizens for adoption of standards in specific fields, the Government and NGOs will use available capacities of each other.

The other important integration process is the Euro-Atlantic process of integration of Montenegro and in relation to that the Government adopted its Communication Strategy for Euro Atlantic Integrations in 2007. It recognized NGOs as partners in the implementation of the Strategy. In compliance with that, the Coordination team for the implementation of

the Strategy solicited participation of interested NGOs in drafting and implementation of the first six month plan and it will do likewise in future. Memorandum of cooperation with NGOs in this field has defined that the cooperation will be based on partnership, transparency, responsibility, information exchange and independence of NGOs.

Such partnership is expected to provide exchange of information in relation to Euro-Atlantic integrations of Montenegro, having in mind the fact that NGOs have the task to contribute to informing citizens of Montenegro about Euro-Atlantic integration in coordination with state authorities, media and businesses adhering to the principles of tolerance and understanding, respect of different views and opinions, dialogue and appropriate arguments.

Next action plans for implementation of the Communication Strategy for Euro-Atlantic Integrations will likewise develop ways and methods of greater involvement of NGOs in planning and carrying out activities relying upon NGO capacities in the process of informing citizens on specific issues pertaining to the process of Euro-Atlantic integrations.

5.2.2. Encouraging and supporting the development volunteerism

Volunteerism or volunteer work represents a way in which citizens can integrate into society and contribute to changes in way of living, theirs and that of local community as a whole, and to general welfare.

Volunteers represent a strong economic support to society, vast pool of knowledge, skills, and insights into local problems and people who are social hubs so that they can be important contributors to increasing the volume of gross domestic product (GDP). Their work generates trust and solidarity among citizens and strengthens their ties to the state.

Volunteerism is particularly important from the point of view of the Stabilization and Association Agreement since the EU practices differ greatly. As there is no *acquis* in this field, the countries of South Eastern Europe can develop their own volunteerism policies, and that applies to Montenegro, too. However, apart from different approaches to development of volunteerism, there are some European models of good practice in volunteerism that have common traits and rather significant trait and that is: volunteerism increases tolerance towards the other and to otherness, it has wholesome effect on development of democracy and active citizenship and increases the feeling of belonging and commitment to European values and feeling of Europeanism.

In cooperation with NGOs, the Government will draft strategy for developing volunteerism and volunteer work that would address the issue of rights and obligations of volunteers, businesses in capacity of organizers of voluntary work and for keeping register of volunteers, volunteer services etc.; and consider the need to adopt separate law or by-law thereupon.

The involvement of volunteers and development of volunteer services will be encouraged in the ranks of civil service and in public institutions so as to contribute to the development of volunteerism as an efficient way to carry out planned activities.

In certain fields, competent bodies can appraise economic potentials and possibility to incorporate volunteerism in planned and strategic documents for those fields (For example, tourism, environmental protection, culture, health, work and social welfare, education etc.).

5.2.3. Providing for greater participation of NGOs in realization of the concept of civil education and lifelong learning

Education for democratic citizenry encompasses a range of practices and activities through which young people and adults alike are trained to actively participate in democratic life by assuming responsibilities and exercising their rights in society. This education is based on the principle of life long learning.

Lifelong learning is a trend that is distinctive for our time and in some countries it has become a way of life or lifestyle. Montenegro, alike its neighboring countries, used to be a country of classical-formal-institutional education dominated by school-based model until recently. However, the reform of education system that was initiated by the "Book of Change" from 2001., was seminal document for developing new education system and it clearly defines positive attitude to informal and life long learning education while preserving our traditional values and most excellent achievement in education along with promoting principles inherent in civic and human values.

In cooperation with the NGOs that are involved in civic education, human and minority rights, development of civil society and other fields important for successful development and realization of programs of civic education, competent authorities will keep continuous communication with a view to keeping NGOs involved in all stages of the process.

NGOs will be informed about dynamics of work on realization of this process and they will be invited to give their comments on: contents of textbooks, performance appraisal of programs and redesigning of programs and methodologies of work.

Through its competent ministry and in cooperation with other authorities of the state, the Government will encourage active involvement of NGOs in implementation of programs of civic education for adults through activities set forth in the Strategy for Adult Education, Strategy of Civic Education (2001-2010), Strategy for Life Long Entrepreneurial Learning (2008-2013) and other documents.

In compliance with the Strategies mentioned above, and with the goal to contribute to the endeavors to create modern, open and competitive economy and modern society in Montenegro, and helping to put job generation and human resource development into the heart of development policy of Montenegro, the Government will encourage and give incentive to the involvement of NGOs in different form of organizing life long learning system through its competent ministry and other competent bodies.

5.2.4. Creating conditions for equal access of disabled persons to public institutions

The Strategy for Integration of Disabled Persons in Montenegro was adopted with a view to achieving a full integration of disabled persons in Montenegro. This document envisages provision of conditions for full and active participation of disabled persons in all spheres of life on the basis of equality through development and implementation of the policy of equal opportunities for all. This Strategy particularly addresses the field of health and social protection, education, professional development and employment, culture, sports and provision of access to their immediate environment, public transport, institutions,

services, systems of communication and information through planned and well directed process of removal of barriers and by building accessible facilities and service.

In cooperation with NGOs, the Government will represent the interests of disabled persons by focusing particular attention to addressing the problem of physical barriers that are infringing upon their direct communication with public institutions.

5.3. Improving NGOs' financial sustainability

In compliance with the EU legislation, the Government can opt for making amendments and supplements to present legislation seeking to create quality criteria and procedures for allocation of funds for financing NGO projects, and more appropriate framework for NGOs' work.

5.3.1 Streamlining of procedures and criteria for funding NGOs from public funds

The Government and competent authorities will keep on developing and streamlining secondary legislation that defines criteria and procedures of allocation of funds for NGOs' projects, programs – either at its own or at NGOs' initiative – in as transparent and appropriate manner as possible, ensuring participation of NGOs in the work of the commission for allocation of funds.

In relation to this, and in compliance with good practices from the EU and from neighboring countries, the Government will cooperate with NGOs on considering and analyzing models for financing NGOs from "public funds" and, once the conditions are in place, they will propose appropriate solution that will enable quality solution for managing the process of financing NGO projects at national level.

5.3.2. Encouraging culture of donations and social responsibility of businesses

In accordance with NGO initiative pertaining to developing social responsibility and creating conditions for pooling additional sources for funding NGOs, the Government will consider proposals for amendment to the Law on Corporate Income Tax with a view to:

- expanding definition of activities for general welfare (in public interest) and expanding this form of donating on other fields such as human rights, consumer protection, fighting corruption, sustainable development, rule of law, fight against discrimination etc.;
- introducing additional tax relief for donations given by legal entities for good causes in general;
- increasing percentage of donating for good causes in compliance with comparative good practice; and
- ensuring introduction of tax system in which legal entities could set aside a part of levied income tax for donating to good causes.

6. STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION

6.1 Action Plan

An integral part of this Strategy is the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Strategy of Cooperation between the Government of Montenegro and Non-governmental Organizations for the period 2009-2011 (hereinafter referred to as the Action Plan).

The Action Plan did not set forth a detailed budget for the realization of respective obligations, save for certain exceptions, as most of the envisaged activities fall within the remit of regular activities of respective authorities for which, generally speaking, they receive funds from the Budget each year.

6.2. Monitoring the implementation of the Strategy and the Action Plan

The Council for Cooperation with NGOs will have prime role in monitoring the realization of the Strategy and the Action Plan for improving cooperation and communication with NGOs. The fact that the Office for Cooperation with NGOs will provide administrative support and expertise for the Council, gives this Office a significant role in collecting data on execution of certain measures set forth by the Strategy and by the Action Plan and in reporting to the Council and the Government about their realization in due time.

Apart from that, the Office will monitor activities of competent ministries and authorities of the state on one side, and NGOs' activities on the other, with a view to providing necessary coordination and support for timely planning and implementation of respective joint activities. With a view to that, the Office will ensure that relevant data and information on important issues such as documents, conferences – local and international – potential donors, calls for projects etc. are put on its web-site; while it will organize specific trainings for focal points for cooperation with NGOs.

6.2.1. Evaluation of activities on information exchange, consultations and greater participation of NGOs in developing public policies

In line with good international practice, the Government and NGOs will participate in developing appropriate evaluating methodology, and reports on results thereof will be available to public at large and they will be used as the basis for revising and improving the process of information exchange and consultations with NGOs, as well as for enabling greater participation of NGOs in the processes of developing public policies and, in general, for improving cooperation.

6.3. Amendment of the Strategy

The Strategy represents a framework for prospective cooperation between the Government and state administration bodies and NGOs and it can be innovated. In relation to that, the Council for Cooperation with NGOs will, if the need be, initiate the procedure for revising and/or amending this strategic document with a view to further partnership, mutual re-

spect, information exchange, responsibility for realization of joint activities, transparency and independence of NGOs, contributing thereby to social development of Montenegro as the ecological and open state and to its success on the path to European and Euro-Atlantic Cooperation.



**The Government
of Montenegro**

ACTION PLAN

**FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF
THE STRATEGY OF COOPERATION OF THE
GOVERNMENT OF MONTENEGRO AND
NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS FOR
PERIOD 2009-2011.**

Adopted at the meeting of the Government of Montenegro
held on January 22, 2009

Action Plan for the Implementation of the Strategy of Cooperation of the Government of Montenegro and Non-governmental Organizations for period 2009-2011.

Objective	Activity	Executing entity	Deadline	Performance indicators	Financial source/s	Other needs/resources
Streamlining normative background for NGO activities						
Streamlining normative background for NGO activities	1. Analyze the legislation in force pertaining to NGO activities	The Office, authorities of the state and NGOs	Once a year by the II quarter	Analysis done and recommendations for amendments / supplements given	Regular sources	Legal expertise, opinion of NGOs
	2. Adopt new and amend/ supplement legislation and other acts (Law on Non-governmental Organizations and by-laws relevant for NGO work)	The Government Ministry of Interior Affairs and Public Administration, other state authorities and NGOs	Continuous	Number of draft laws and by-laws adopted		
Streamlining statistics on NGO activities	3. Develop the list of indicators for monitoring NGO activities and develop definitions of indicators	The Government, Tax Directorate, Commercial Court, National Statistics Bureau, NGOs, Employment Agency, Central Bank of Montenegro	2010	The list of indicators developed	Regular and new sources of donations	Statistics expertise, opinion of NGOs
Streamlining institutional background for cooperation with NGOs						
Enhancing capacities of the Office for Cooperation with NGOs	4. Analyze and define competencies of the Office for Cooperation with NGOs and gradually recruit new staff	The Government, General Secretariat, Office for Cooperation with NGOs	From February 2009 on	Competencies and number of staff defined, relevant act adopted	Regular sources	Functional Analysis with concrete proposals concerning the scope of competence of the Office
	5. Enhance capacity of the staff	Human Resources Management Authority, NGOs, international organizations	Continuous	Number of trainings, better performance of the staff after the training	Regular and extraordinary	Training needs assessment

Objective	Activity	Executing entity	Deadline	Performance indicators	Financial source/s	Other needs/resources
	6. Draft a program for creating the central data base of NGOs - - enter data and update regularly - design Internet presentation of the Office	Ministry for IT, IT firm, Office for Cooperation with NGOs, other authorities	July 2009	Data base created and used by the Office - data entered into the base - Internet presentation set up	Regular and extraordinary	- draft IT application - PC equipment and training - NGOs' data - Web designer
Improving conditions for work of focal points for cooperation of NGOs	7. Amended and supplemented regulations on internal organization and job classification in state administration bodies	The Government, authorities in state administration	End of III quarter 2009	Number of amended regulations	Regular sources	Legal expertise
	8. Train focal points for cooperation with NGOs and maintain data base on NGOs	Human Resources Management Authority, Office for Cooperation with NGOs, NGOs	Continuous	Number of trainings, better performance at work, operated and maintained data base	Regular sources	Training needs assessment - specific trainings for improving cooperation and maintaining data base
[Establishing Council for Cooperation between the Government and NGOs	9. Prepare draft decision for establishing the Council for cooperation between the Government and NGOs	Human Resources Management Authority, Office for Cooperation with NGOs, NGOs	February 2009	Adopted decision on establishing the Council	Regular sources	Legal expertise, opinion of NGOs
The Council's activity	- Prepare and adopt the decision on appointing the members of the Council - Report to the Government about the Council's work		By June 2009 Once a year	The Council appointed Annual report on the Council to the Government		Legal expertise, opinion of NGOs Reports from other authorities

Objective	Activity	Executing entity	Deadline	Performance indicators	Financial source/s	Other needs/ resources
Streamlining information exchange, consultations and participation of NGOs in developing and appraisal of the success of public policies						
Developing culture of dialogue and principle of independence of NGOs	10. Promote and monitor the implementation of the Code of NGOs and Code of Ethics for Civil Servants and right to be critical of the work of the Government on the basis of arguments	State authorities, Office for Cooperation with NGOs, Coalition of NGOs, NGOs	Continuous	Number of meetings of state authorities and sectoral NGOs, number of procedures upon breach of the Code of Ethics	Regular sources	Legal expertise, opinion of NGOs
	11. Publishing information on documents adopted by the Government, publishing working documents relevant for the NGOs' work and for opportunity to get involved, (in the media and on the Web-site)	The Government, ministries and state authorities	Continuous	Number of published information and documents on Web-site and in other means of communication	Regular sources	Web-site
Improve information provision for NGOs	12. Establish a mixed work group for normative regulation of information exchange, consultations and participation of NGOs in the procedure of designing public policies	The Government, Ministry of Interior and Public Administration, General Secretariat, Office for Cooperation with NGOs	June 2009	Regulated participation of NGOs in the process of developing public policies	Regular sources	Legal expertise, opinion of NGOs
	13. Transfer NGO Register on the Web-site of the Ministry of Interior Affairs and Public Administration (it is now at the Ministry of Justice's Web-site), maintain and update	Ministry of Interior Affairs and Public Administration	June 2009 and after that continuously	NGO Register put on the Web-site of the Ministry of Interior and Public Administration Timely updated (every 15 days)		Needs assessment for capacities, equipment and technical support

Objective	Activity	Executing entity	Deadline	Performance indicators	Financial source/s	Other needs/resources
Developing process of consultations with NGOs	14. Sign agreement on cooperation with the NGOs active in respective fields	State authorities, Office for Cooperation with NGOs, NGOs	From February 2009 Continuous	Number of signed agreements	Regular sources	Legal expertise, opinion of NGOs
	15. Consultations with NGOs (roundtables, meetings, joint documents for developing public policies)	State authorities, Office for Cooperation with NGOs, NGOs	Continuous	Number of consultations and their positive effects	Regular and extraordinary sources	Legal expertise, opinion of NGOs
	16. Establishing a databases in authorities of the state on the NGOs that are active in their respective fields of competence and create link to the central data base in the Office	Ministries, state authorities, Office for Cooperation with NGOs, NGOs	From July 2009	Number of established and linked databases in authorities and the central one in the Office and its updating	Regular and extraordinary sources	Equipment and technical support, designing an IT application
Providing for greater participation of NGOs in bodies and work groups set by the Government, ministries and other authorities of the state	17. Draft act/s on criteria and procedure for selecting NGO representatives for relevant bodies and work groups	The Government, Ministries, state authorities, Office for Cooperation with NGOs, NGOs	Continuous	Number of adopted acts Number of NGOs representatives selected	Regular sources	Legal expertise, opinion of NGOs
Creating stimulating environment for NGOs' activities in specific fields						
Increasing participation of NGOs in the process of EU integrations and Euro-Atlantic integrations	18. Continuously involve NGOs in implementation of the Communication Strategy on Informing Public about the EU Accession Process	The Government, Secretariat for EU Integrations, Office, NGOs	Continuous	Reports on implementation of the Communication Strategy	Regular sources	Signing the agreement on cooperation between the Secretariat and NGOs

Objective	Activity	Executing entity	Deadline	Performance indicators	Financial source/s	Other needs/resources
	19. Involve NGOs in defining priorities for realization of projects funded from pre-accession EU funds	Secretariat for EU Integrations, Office for Cooperation with NGOs, NGOs, Delegation of the EU Commission in Montenegro	Continuous	Number of NGOs participating in defining priorities and designing programs for projects to be supported from EU funds - Number of applications from NGOs filed to the EU funds	Regular sources	Signing or acceding to agreement on cooperation between authorities and NGOs
	20. Continuously employ NGO capacities in training of civil servants in relation to EU integrations	NGOs, Secretariat for EU Integrations, Human Resources Management Authority, Office for Cooperation with NGOs	Continuous	Number of NGO representatives engaged in delivering training etc. Number of civil servants who attended training organized by NGOs	Regular sources	Training needs assessment
	21. Involve NGOs in the process of translating acquis 22. Define mechanism/s for co-financing NGO projects that receive support from the EU funds from the income generated from the games of chance	NGOs, Secretariat for EU Integrations The Government, Ministry of Finance, Commission for Allocation of Income Generated from Games of Chance, Office for Cooperation with NGOs	Continuous 2009	Number of NGOs involved in teams of translators Established mechanism regulated by a relevant by-law	Regular sources	Foreign language speaking competence and expertise related to specific terminology Legal expertise, opinion of NGOs
	23. Involvement of NGOs as a partner in realization of action plans for implementation of the Communication Strategy for Euro-Atlantic Integrations	Coordination Team for Implementation of the Communication Strategy for Euro-Atlantic Integrations, Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, NGOs	Continuous	Reports on implementation of the Communication strategy Number of NGOs' activities	Regular sources	Entities acceding to agreement on cooperation between the Coordination team and NGOs

Objective	Activity	Executing entity	Deadline	Performance indicators	Financial source/s	Other needs/resources
Encouraging and supporting development of volunteerism	24. Draft strategy for development of volunteerism and volunteer work and adopt the strategy	Ministry of Health, Labor and Social Welfare, NGO ADP Zid, OSCE	2009	Established inter-sectoral team	Regular sources	Legal expertise, opinion of NGOs
			2010	Adopted strategy for developing volunteerism		
Providing for greater participation of NGOs in realization of the concept of civil education and lifelong learning	25. Encourage participation of NGOs in implementation of programs of civil education for adults and various forms of organizing lifelong learning	NGOs, Ministry of Education and Science, Education Bureau, Center for Vocational Training, the Examinations Center	Continuous	Number of NGOs involved in consultations and implementation of projects for civil and lifelong learning defined in strategic documents in the field of education	Regular sources	Licensing/accreditation of programs of civil education and lifelong learning
Creating conditions for equal access of disabled persons to public institutions	26. Provide access of disabled persons to premises of state authorities and public institutions	Authorities of the state, public institutions, inspections	Continuous	Number of drafted platforms etc.	Regular sources	Plans and programs
Improving NGOs' financial sustainability						
Streamlining procedures and criteria for funding NGOs from public funds	27. Analyze models for financing NGOs from public funds (good practices from EU countries and from neighboring countries)	Office for Cooperation with NGOs, NGOs, Ministry of Finance	Continuous	Proposed amendments and/or adoption of new legislative	Regular sources	Legal expertise, opinion of NGOs
				28. Amend of present and/or adopt new acts including the participation of NGOs		
Encouraging culture of donations and social responsibility of businesses	29. Amend and supplement the Law on Corporate Income Tax for providing incentive for culture of giving and corporate social responsibility	The Government, Ministry of Finance, Tax Directorate, NGOs	2010	Prepared Draft law on amendment and supplement to the Law on Corporate Income Tax	Regular sources	Legal expertise in fiscal policy, opinion of NGOs



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