



ASSOCIATION FOR DEMOCRATIC INITIATIVES

ANNUAL REPORT 2012



ASSOCIATION FOR DEMOCRATIC INITIATIVES

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Introduction

Dear Reader,

This Annual Report for 2012 contains detailed descriptions of project activities, implemented in 2012. Several projects described in the Report have been extended, new activities have been added, and we have received additional support and funding for their implementation in this year as well.

We hope that you will find the Annual Report for 2012 useful and informative. Moreover, we hope that this Report will help you understand better the work and efforts we invest into the democratization of public institutions, the protection of human rights, and the promotion of EU integration processes in Bosnia and Herzegovina. We are open for cooperation with sundry societal actors, and have worked in the past with great number of non-governmental organizations, public institutions, and business representatives. Therefore, contact us if you wish to work together with us and build a partnership!

Sincerely,

ADI Team



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About us

Association for Democratic Initiatives (ADI) is a non-governmental organization working on political and economic development, the rule of law, protection of human rights and EU integrations in Bosnia and Herzegovina by fostering participatory and direct democracy practices and instigating partnerships between the civil society, governmental institutions and the private sector. ADI realizes its objectives through proposing policy solutions, implementing projects and advocacy campaigns, and organizing educational trainings. Particularly, ADI's efforts are directed towards building institutional capacities of civil society organizations and promotion of their role in the society.

During its 11 years of existence, ADI has worked on diverse national and regional projects on issues in the area of development of political and economic institutions, instigating participatory democracy mechanisms, strengthening the civil sector, and protection of human rights in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Since its creation until 2008, ADI has served as the Secretariat for the Balkan Human Rights Network (BHRN), coordinating activities and projects with 44 human rights organizations in the Balkans region. During this period ADI implemented a great number of projects in cooperation with national and regional partners/NGOs. Some of ADI's past projects include, successful regional schools "Human Rights and Business" and "Regional Summer School on Human Rights" held in Malta. In the last six years, ADI implemented several projects focusing on the reform of the justice sector and the development of public participation practices in this sector: "Strengthening the Role of the Professional Associations in the Justice Sector in BiH" and "Creating the Preconditions for the Cooperation between Non-governmental organizations and the Ministry of Justice of BiH".

In addition, ADI held numerous trainings for civil society organizations (CSOs) focusing on developing their knowledge and skills in writing project proposals; trainings on organizing advocacy campaigns and public consultations; preparing applications for EU funds, World Bank, and other international and national donor organizations; financial management; strategic planning; monitoring work of public institutions; building communication strategies. Similar trainings were organized for municipalities and small businesses throughout the country. As part of its projects' activities, ADI had prepared and published a great number of guidebooks, research and public policy papers.



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ADI possesses strong partnership relations with a great number of institutions, both within the country and regionally. In the realization of our current project activities, for example, ADI drew from its established partnerships with more than 300 CSOs in the country, several municipalities, the Ministry of Justice BiH, and the Ministry of Human Rights, Refugees and Civil Affairs in BiH. ADI possesses skilled staff to manage and implement projects and programs, organize and coordinate large-scale public consultations and advocacy campaigns, resreach and write policy analyses and comparative studies, and lead promotion activities. Large number of donors, particularly international development organizations present in BiH, have recognized our expertise, professional attitude, dedication and enthusiasm we bring into our work. ADI's current donors are: Government of Great Britain, USAID, Swiss Government; while some of its former donors were: European Commission, Danish Center for Human Rights, USAID, USAID BiH, Government of Great Britain, Catalonia Ombudsman, UNDP BiH, UNDP in Serbia, British Embassy in BiH, OSCE Mission in Croatia, and Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Aside from regional presence that we have developed through the implementation of projects with our partner organizations in Macedonia, Kosovo and Serbia, we have also built our international experience working outside of the Balkans; especially in the Euro-Mediterranean region as a member of the educational working group within Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network and consultant in the process of establishing Turkish Human Rights Network.



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Implemented Projects in 2012

Human Rights Awareness Rising and Education Project: Selection and participation of two representatives from BiH for MEDAC human rights course in Malta 2012

The Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies (MEDAC) is an institution of higher learning offering advanced degrees in diplomacy with a focus on Mediterranean issues. MEDAC is based in Malta and was established in 1990 pursuant to an agreement between the governments of Malta and Switzerland.

The Human Dimensions Program of the Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies - in collaboration with Ireland and with the financial support of the Swiss Development Cooperation of the Swiss Ministry of Foreign Affairs – organizes a specialized yearly summer training course on Human Rights and Development: Educational Perspectives. Through lectures by established experts, case studies, group discussions and simulations, the training course offers the participants an opportunity to study basic principles of human rights, international law development and education. The course is also a very useful match-making event and an opportunity to confront different experiences and points of view when it comes to HR in different cultural contexts.

For the fifth year, Association for Democratic Initiative (ADI) organized and participated in the selection process of candidates from B&H for the mentioned summer school. Swiss Embassy provided the financial support and awarded full scholarship for two candidates from Bosnia and Herzegovina to participate in summer training. This year's summer school topic was "Human rights: Protest and change." MEDAC annually organizes a specialized summer course on "Human rights and development: An educational perspective." Through lectures of recognized experts, case studies, group discussions and simulations, this course provides an opportunity for participants to analyze the basic principles of human rights, the development of international law and human rights education. The course is also a very useful event for making new contacts and opportunities to address different experiences and views on the human rights of people from different cultural groups.



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The major strength of the project is that it is addressing the lack of interdisciplinary approach to human rights. Multidisciplinary approach to human rights is being offered only by few programs and MEDAC School is a perfect example of an innovative approach which is at the same time participant oriented and general and roots human rights issues to activities in daily lives as well as global trends. Also, the Project is addressing young people with previous human rights knowledge who wish to focus on a certain area, broaden their knowledge, and are dedicated to continue working on human rights issues. This is ensured by the selection criteria and the interviewing process.

Period of project implementation: 01/05/2012 – 31/10/2012.

The project was funded by the Swiss Embassy in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Strengthening Judicial Protection of Human Rights in Bosnia and Herzegovina through UN Universal Period Review Process (JSDP 2) – Year 3

During the third year of the existence of Justice Network, ADI in cooperation with Human Rights Center (HRC) in Sarajevo, continued implementing activities of JN.

The overall goal of this project was to advance the rule of law and improve the public understanding of justice-related issues in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The specific objectives of this project were: to increase the involvement of civil society organizations in the development of justice sector public policies and legal reform initiatives in Bosnia and Herzegovina; to increase public demand for the rule of law and public confidence in justice institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina; to promote integration of BiH into the European Union; to foster better protection of human rights through the judiciary in Bosnia and Herzegovina; to increase understanding of the UPR process of justice sector stakeholders, civil society and the public.

Period of project implementation: 01/09/2011 – 30/04/2012

The project was supported by USAID/ Justice Sector Development Project 2.



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Strengthening Judicial Protection of Human Rights in Bosnia and Herzegovina through UN Universal Period Review Process (JSDP 2) – Year 4

During the fourth year of the existence of Justice Network, ADI in cooperation with Human Rights Center (HRC) in Sarajevo will focus on strengthening those JN activities, which have proven themselves of being very successful and unique to the Justice Network.

These activities relate to the activities of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) and advocacy activities related to the implementation of specific recommendations arising from the EU Structured Dialogue on the reform of the justice sector and the implementation of specific reform activities USAID JSDP II, relating to the independence and accountability of the judiciary.

Period of project implementation: 01/10/2012 – 31/03/2014

The project was supported by USAID/ Justice Sector Development Project 2.

"Equality in Rights Programme – Antidiscrimination phase 3"

Association for Democratic Initiatives Sarajevo, supported by the international organization for protection of human rights- Civil Rights Defenders, successfully completed the implementation of third phase of project "Equality in Rights Programme – Antidiscrimination phase 3 " following the successful completion of the first and second phase of the project. In the third phase of the project, young people, students and activists working in the field of preventing discrimination and protecting human rights, attended the training "Equality in Rights Programme – Antidiscrimination". Moreover, the same were introduced to the innovative way of determining and proving discrimination – "Testing discrimination".

Period of project implementation: 01/03/2012 – 31/12/2012.

The project was supported by Civil Rights Defenders



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Monitoring and evaluating the implementation of Action Plan of Justice Sector Reform Strategy (JSRS) in Bosnia-Herzegovina

Signing the *Memorandum on the establishment of mechanisms for monitoring and evaluation of implementation of Justice Sector Reform Strategy in Bosnia and Herzegovina (JSRS)* with the Ministry of Justice in January 2010 determined the responsibility of five civil society organizations for systematic monitoring and evaluating the implementation of reform measures and activities of the Action Plan of Justice Sector Reform Strategy in BiH - Association for Democratic Initiatives. These include: ADI, the Helsinki Committee for Human Rights in Bosnia and Herzegovina - HK BiH, Association "Your rights in Bosnia and Herzegovina", the Human Rights Office Tuzla and the Center of Civil Initiatives - CCI.

Each organization committed itself to the monitoring and the implementation of JSRS within each strategic pillar, coinciding with the priority field of activity of each organization. ADI is monitoring reform activities related to Pillar 1 – Judiciary.

Having many years of advocacy experience in the field of democratization & human rights protection, and awareness of the justice sector in BiH, these organizations got involved in the reporting process in order to contribute to the building of an independent, coordinated and efficient justice system in BiH, accountable to all BiH citizens, fully compliant with the EU standards with the best practice, and guarantee the rule of law.

Establishing the mechanism for evaluating and monitoring the implementation of JSRS for civil society organizations is an indication of a positive change and the opening institutions in justice sector in BiH and successful cooperation with institutions in the justice sector in BiH

Period of project implementation: 07/01/2011 – 31/03/2012

Project for this year was not funded, but it was implemented on voluntary basis.



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Out Partners

- Members of the Balkan Human Rights Network (BHRN)
- Foundation Public Law Centre
- Human Rights Centre, University of Sarajevo
- Youth Initiatives for Human Rights
- Helsinki Committee for Human Rights in BiH
- Association "Vaša prava BiH"
- Human Rights Office Tuzla
- Centri civilnih inicijativa
- Danish Institute for Human Rights (DIHR)
- Civil Society Promotion Center (CSPC)
- Association for Democratic Initiatives Gostivar
- Municipality Bijeljina
- Municipality Vitez
- Youth Centre Gornji Vakuf-Uskoplje
- Freedom house Serbia
- Twinning Platform
- Justice Network in BiH
- Network Sporazum plus
- Network for building peace
- Infohouse
- Cantonal Chamber of Commerce Tuzla
- Law Faculty in Bihać
- Law Faculty in Tuzla
- Judicial Commission of Brčko Distrikt
- Youth Council of Mostar



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Out Donors

- Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark (MFA)
- British Government
- USAID /JDSP
- Swiss Embassy Sarajevo
- UNDP BiH
- Catalan Ombudsman
- Canadian Embassy
- Civil Rights Defenders

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