

advocacy for  
open government

supporting the right to know  
in South East Europe

**SEPTEMBER 26, 2014**

# ADVOCATING FOR OPEN GOVERNMENT

**CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS' SEMINAR**



**Friday  
September 26, 2014  
9.00 a.m. – 4.30 p.m.**

**Hotel Europe  
Vladislava Skarića 5  
Conference Hall 3  
Sarajevo  
[www.hoteleurope.ba](http://www.hoteleurope.ba)**

Please, apply by sending an email to [selma.zulic@analitika.ba](mailto:selma.zulic@analitika.ba) or via telephone **033 838 547**

Due to a limited number of available seats, please confirm your attendance by **Thursday, September 25, 2014.**

## SUMMARY

In the past years, civil society organizations in Bosnia and Herzegovina have been implementing a number of advocacy activities towards open government and the promotion of principles of government transparency, meaningful public participation in decision-making processes and more accountable governance. Although certain improvements in this area have been achieved, CSOs are still faced with a number of challenges, including strenuous access to public information, frequently ineffective mechanisms of engagement in policy-making processes, and an overall lack of strategic commitment of public institutions towards open government. In June 2014, the Council of Ministers BiH has appointed relevant state institutions to undertake activities needed for Bosnia and Herzegovina to join the Open Government Partnership – OGP initiative. The country's participation in the OGP would mean that public authorities take on concrete obligations towards openness, as well as cooperate with civil society in developing an action plan as part of the initiative.

Reflecting upon the Open Government Partnership and other initiatives that promote open government policies, this seminar's aim is to provide CSOs with insight into different approaches to open government advocacy and provide space for an exchange of experiences in this realm. The seminar consists of four interactive sessions during which presenters will discuss advocacy concepts and techniques, as well as offer practical examples of civil society campaigns in the transparency and accountability realm, such as campaigns for Open Government Partnership in Austria and Germany. Presenters will also discuss challenges of organizing civil society organizations into joint coalitions and networks, of developing effective advocacy strategies for open government policies, as well as challenges of communication and cooperation with public authorities in this realm. The seminar will conclude with a discussion of current advocacy activities in BiH, as well as future priorities for opening up government.

This seminar is intended for civil society organizations from BiH that advocate for the principles of open government.

## DRAFT PROGRAM

- 09.00 – 09.30** Registration and Welcome Coffee
- 09.30 – 11.00** Advocating for Open Government: Approaches, Techniques and Strategies, **Eóin Young**
- 11.00 – 11.15** Coffee Break
- 11.15 – 13.00** Advocating for Open Government Standards: Reflections on Campaigns in Austria and Germany, **Walter Palmetshofer**
- 13.00 – 14.00** Joint Lunch
- 14.00 – 15.00** Regional Perspective on Open Government: Case of Montenegro, **Dragan Koprivica**

### Date

September 26, 2014

### Time

9.00 a.m. – 4.30 p.m.

### Place

Hotel Europe  
Conference Hall 3  
Vladislava Skarića 5  
Sarajevo, BiH

## PRESENTERS

Eóin Young, *International Centre for Policy Advocacy*

Walter Palmetshofer,  
*Open Knowledge Foundation Germany*

Maja Branković,  
*Transparency International BiH*

Dragan Koprivica, *Center for Democratic Transition, Montenegro*

Edin Karić, *Anti-Corruption Civic Organizations' Unified Network ACCOUNT*

Nermina Voloder, *Center for Social Research Analitika*

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15.00 – 15.15 Coffee Break

15.15 – 16.30 Advocating for Open Government in BiH: Current Efforts and Next Steps, **Eldin Karić, Maja Branković, Nermina Voloder**

Working Language: Languages of BiH and English, translation provided.

## WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

- CSOs from BiH that promote the principles of a transparent and accountable government

## MAP

for a larger map, please visit:  
[http://www.hoteleurope.ba/sub\\_location.html](http://www.hoteleurope.ba/sub_location.html)



## ABOUT THE PROJECT

This seminar is organized as part of the regional project Advocacy for Open Government: Supporting the Right to Know in South East Europe. The project's main aim is to advocate for open government principles and monitors progress of governments with respect to country commitments towards the OGP in six Western Balkan countries: Albania, BiH, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia. The project is led by the Policy Association for an Open Society (PASOS) from Prague, and implemented by policy research organizations in the six countries. The seminar is also organized as part of the activities of a non-governmental coalition that advocates for BiH to join the OGP (for more, please go to the following [LINK](#)).

## KEY TOPICS

- ⇒ Advocacy: subject and practice
- ⇒ Advocacy mechanisms and platforms
- ⇒ Fact-based advocacy for open government standards
- ⇒ Advocacy for open government: international experiences and practices
- ⇒ Advocating for open government in BiH: priorities and examples

This seminar is organized with the financial support of the European Union and Open Society Fund BiH



Project funded by the European Union

Open Society Fund  
Bosnia & Herzegovina



Fond otvoreno društvo  
Bosna i Hercegovina

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