



NARRATIVE REPORT

1. Description

- 1.1. Name of beneficiary of grant contract: "NGO Centre in Razgrad" Association
- 1.2. Name and title of the Contact person : Georgi Milkov, a Project Manager
- 1.3. Name of partners in the Action: "Open Door Centre" – Pleven
- 1.4. Title of the Action: Informational campaign for popularising of the project and identifying of 25 NGO for taking part in training program; Closed briefings with judges; informational bulletin for civic court watch; rating from the public image of the court; Public procedure for selecting of 25 NGO from 3 planed regions in Bulgaria for taking part in educational trainings for civic court watch; Three two-days long trainings for receiving knowledge and practical skills for civic court watch in Bulgaria; Making of regional teams - flowing supervision and development; Public forum/conference; Activities for promoting the activity of the project – monthly reports, web page, press conferences.
- 1.5. Contract number: CSDP Phare 2005 – 008
- 1.6. Start date and end date of the reporting period: December 2007 – November 2008
- 1.7. Target country(ies) or region(s):
Republic of Bulgaria, three planed regions – North-Eastern, Central Northern and Central Southern.

Final beneficiaries & target groups:

Representatives from 25 NGO from three planed regions – 15 women and 10 men, judges, public prosecutors, legal clerks, jury members, Jurists – approximately 300 women and 250 men, key persons people, representatives from the local authorities, social, health and educational institutions, mayors, councilors, citizens – approximately 250 women and 200 men, journalists – about 30 women and 15 men.

2. Assessment of implementation of Action activities

2.1. Activities and results

Activity 1:

Realized activities and achieved results:

1. Informational campaign for popularizing the project

The main aim of the informational campaign was reviewing of the System of civic court watch and the five-year experience of the NGO Centre in Razgrad on local, regional and national level. The informational campaign was directed in two main target groups: representatives of the court and representatives of different public institutions, non-governmental organizations and citizens. The campaign involved organizing of briefings, informational days and press conferences. Realizing of these activities involved presenting of the project, the idea of the making of National NGOs Network for Civic Court Watch, putting an accent on the necessity of independent civic control on the work of the judiciary.

Briefings

The briefings were organized in:

- District court – Silistra – September 11th 2008 – 37 participants



- Regional court – Pazardzik – September 17th 2008 – 30 participants
- Regional court – Pleven – September 23rd 2008 – 30 participants
- Regional court – Lovech – October 15th 2008 – 30 participants
- City Hall in Troyan – October 16th 2008 – 30 participants
- Informational hall of Advocacy College - Shumen – October 21st 2008 – 30 participants
- Court Chamber – Targovishte – October 22nd 2008 – 30 participants
- District court – Dobrich – October 28th 2008 – 33 participants
- City Hall in Peshtera – October 29th 2008 – 30 participants
- District court – Razgrad – October 31st 2008 – 36 participants

In the meetings took part representatives from regional and administrative courts – chairmen, judges, administrative secretaries, legal secretaries and jury members. On the briefings we produced the aims, activities and the results of the project, previous experience and results from already realized projects of NGO Centre in Razgrad for civic court watch in the period of 2004 – 2007. We discussed and comment the results, conclusions and the practices from the civic court watch in 6 district cities, written in the analytic report for the development of the court “Civic observer 4”, made by the team of NGO Centre in Razgrad. The role of the nongovernmental organizations was highly esteemed because as a partner of the court in the project they can support the process of informing society for the functions and activities of the legal institution. Judges and the jury members in the visited courts are unanimous that the social trust in the legal institution must be raised and the contribution for that must be of the nongovernmental organizations.

Informational days

The informational days were organized in:

- o Levski – September 24th, 2008 – 50 participants
- o Velingrad – October 23rd, 2008 – 50 participants
- o Kubrat – October 9th, 2008 – 51 participants
- o Isperih – October 10th, 2008 – 50 participants
- o Troyan – October 16th, 2008 – 50 participants
- o Kardzhali – October 30th, 2008 – 50 participants

In the informational days took part representatives from public, social, health, educational and cultural institutions, and participants from local authorities, councilors, mayors and vice mayors of communes, nongovernmental organizations, key figures, representatives from different professions, journalists. The interest to the System of civic court watch and the experience of the NGO Centre in Razgrad provoked interest among the participants in the informational days. It was general opinion that the civil sector could successfully be a corrective for the activity of the legal institution and encouraged the multiplication of experience of NGO Centre in the cities, where the project must be realized.

Press conferences

The press conferences were organized in important administrative centers in the three planned regions:

- Razgrad – September 9th, 2008 – 15 participants
- Shumen – September 10th, 2008 – 12 participants
- Pazardzik – September 17th 2008 – 16 participants
- Pleven – September 23rd, 2008 – 21 participants
- Lovech – October 15th, 2008 – 12 participants
- Pleven – October 27th, 2008 – 12 participants
- Kardzhali – October 30th, 2008 – 12 participants
- Razgrad – November 5th 2008 – 14 participants
- Silistra – November 6th 2008 – 15 participants
- Pazardzhik – November 7th, 2008 – 13 participants

The aim of the organized press conferences was to popularize the project with the help of the media in the three planned regions and to reach wider society. The press



conferences involved presenting the aims, problems, the results of the project, partners and already made National NGOs Network for Civic Court Watch.

2. Preparation for public procedure for selection of 25 NGOs for taking part in the education for civic court watch

A public procedure for selecting of 25 NGOs from Northern-Eastern, Central Northern and Central Southern regions for taking part in educational trainings was organized. Every candidate organization reviewed filled forms, autobiography of the organization representative in European standard and certificate for registration of the organization. For every candidate the regional coordinators filled matrixes, which helped for the correct selection of the organizations. The organizations were marked among several main points: experience in watching of public institutions, experience and contribution in forming of policy, at least two-year experience in the announced spheres, institutional support, membership in regional, national and international networks, availability of contemporary communication equipment and office. The team of the project searches a balance between the representatives of NGO that work for a protection of vulnerable groups and between NGO with different roles (rising of the public sensibility, making of capacity, support of violence victims, leading of cases, observing and documenting, lobbying). Organization with serious experience in these spheres were chosen, very motivated and with clear vision for the future. In July 2008 the public procedure was over, 25 NGOs from the three planed regions were chosen in front of the Managing council of NGO Center in Razgrad. 25 NGOs were selected to take part in the three educational trainings – application.

3. Researching of public opinion - survey of the public image of the judiciary

During the period June – July 2008 was organized researching of the public opinion of the citizens from Pleven, Pazardzik and Razgrad. About 1500 accidentally selected citizens were researched, from different social and age groups. The method of the accidentally choice was used. Some important places were fixed – the buildings of regional and district courts, informational and commercial centers, nongovernmental sector, business zones, public institutions. The researchers were: the team of the project and taught volunteers. The processing of the inquiries was done by preliminary made instrumentation. It was made a comparative analysis with concrete conclusions and recommendations to the court from the three cities. Applications through the analysis were the diagrams, which facilitate the visual opinion for the public image of the court in the three regions. The research gave us information for the impressions of the citizens for the activity of the judiciary, judges and legal employees; the level of popularity and clearness of the legal institution, for the quality of jurisdiction, the servicing the citizens in the court, the mechanisms of accountability of the court, are they clear for the citizens, we received very useful and interesting advices for improving the activity of the legal institutions and judiciary at all.

4. Preparation and organizing of educational trainings for receiving of knowledge and practical skills for civic court watch

First educational training – 31 participants

On October 1st to 2nd 2008 near Razgrad, in Pchelina recreation area took part the first educational training of the project “Development of National NGO Network for Civic Court Watch”. In the training were invited the organizations selected with the public procedure, organizations with many years experience in the civic sector in the watching of public institutions and forming of local policy. The main aim of the educational trainings is development of the capacity of the approved organizations from the three planed regions in Bulgaria for realizing civic court watch. The participants from the organizations shared their motivation to take part in the education. Their expectations were to learn something new and useful and to improve themselves; to realize their ideas for monitoring of the court and this project will be very useful for them; to learn something for the good practices and to be able to work with the court directly. The



participants in the first educational training received useful knowledge and practical abilities for the System for civic court watch, for the ways of developing of NGOs in the sphere of the court watching and making of public-personal partnership between the judiciary and NGO sector. The main educational modules were: aims and priorities of the court watch; observed subject; instruments for civic court watch; participants in the process of civic court watch; target groups of the civic court watch; roles and responsibilities of the participants in the process of civic court watch. At the end of the first training people shared and discussed the idea for making of the National NGO Network for Civic Court Watch. Participants in the education were unanimous that the court is an institution with mission to solve people problems and everyone expect problems to be solved. To work with the court is a big challenge for the participants and that's way is necessary special approach in realizing monitoring of the activity of the court.

Second educational training - 29 participants

On October 2nd to 3rd 2008 near Razgrad, in Pchelina recreation area was organized second educational training. The aim of the education was rebuilding and development of the received in the first educational training knowledge and skills of the chosen in public procedure nongovernmental organizations for realizing of civic court watch. The second educational training had mostly practical direction. The participants had an opportunity to watch legal cases in District court in Razgrad and to fill in cards for civic court watch. They exercised their practical skills received in the first educational training. During the second session participants implemented personal conversations with local judges which shared their own opinion for the partnership between the NGOs Centre in Razgrad and the court, the process of its development and the good practices as a result of the successful partnership.

Third educational training – 40 participants

On October 23rd to 24th 2008 near Razgrad, in Pchelina recreation area was organized the third final educational training. The participants were introduced with the different sorts of instruments for researching of the public opinion and with the ways of manipulating the results. They learned about the structure of the monthly report from the civic court watch and the terms they have to write it. The participants had an opportunity to write monthly report by their own and to learn about the structure of the three-month analytic report for civic court watch. The representatives of the organizations received knowledge and skills for successful reviewing of the activity of the project and the reports from the civic court watch in front of the society and the court. They learned about the organizing of media campaigns, work meetings with journalists, press conferences, indoors briefings with judges, public forums and informational days, how to make publications and press massages. The participants were trained how to systemize, generalize and introduce in front of the court and society the information from the civic court watch, three-months analytic report and final report for the development of the court. The representatives from the organizations received very good training, theoretical knowledge and practical skills for realizing of civic court watch.

5. Establishment of National NGO Network in Bulgaria for Civic Court Watch and support for the legal reform on local level

At the end of the third educational training was constituted National Network for Civic Court Watch from the organizations, which were approved and took part in the three educational trainings. Every organization committed certified copy of certificate for registration. It was made up a protocol from the constitutions of the National NGOs Network, which was signed, by 15 NGOs-members. They choose the length and the rules for interaction between NGOs in the Network, the rights, responsibilities and duties of all members of the Network.



The aim of the Network is to unite the trained nongovernmental organizations to work together in the sphere of the social watching of the legal system and to support the positive realizing of the legal reform on local level. The organizations, members of the National NGOs Network will change good practices and positive experience for interaction with the court among it; innovative methods for civic court watch and for activating of the process for opening of the legal system through the citizens and the society, they will commune for raising of their capacity in the sphere of civic court watching and will involve another organizations, which want to develop their capacity in this sphere.

6. Development of the regional teams – supervision and developing of the team of the project

During the period under review 10 meetings for supervision of the team were done. There took part: Manager of the project, regional coordinators, and program lieder. Three regional teams were made. They have to coordinate the activity of the project in different planed regions – “Open door Centre” for Central North Region, Local Active NGO from Pazardzhik coordinates the activity in Central South Region, NGOs Centre in Razgrad – North-Eastern Planed Region. The partner organizations signed up contracts for partnership. The team of the project made up special strategy for communication, which permits not to brake the process of realizing the activity of the project, ensures possibility for in time and on term realization of the project.

On the team meetings they change information about the process of realizing of the project, value the reached results, analyze the growing difficulties in realizing of some activities. The regional coordinators receive support for realizing of individual activities, connected with realizing of the activities of the project, the plan the future activities. The coordination between the team of the project and the regional coordinators is connected with the realized and present activities and planning of the next period under review.

7. Activities for popularizing the project activity

- Press conferences;
- Reports;
- Web page – provides actual information for the project realization.

3. Partners and other Co-operation

With this project we develop already done connections with the local courts in North-Eastern Planed Region using the positive experience in another two regions. An extra priority of the project is the active participation of the prosecutors.

The Leading Organization “NGOs Centre in Razgrad” signed a contract with the partner “Open Door Centre” – Pleven with specified parameters for the partnership, rights, duties and responsibilities of the participants in the project, representation, terms and financial interactions.

With our partner - “Open Door Centre”, we work very successfully for realization of the project. There is very good coordination between the regional coordinators based on made strategy and communication between the team of the project. We work very well with our partner, change information, we consult ourselves for the realization of the project activities, share experience and support together.

The formal partners are representatives of the court, important figures and representatives of institutions, journalists and citizens, which had taken part in organized activities of the project. The impressions of the project team are that the project and the experience of the NGOs Centre in Razgrad in the sphere of civic court watch provoked serious interest among the target groups and willingness for partnership.



The experience of NGOs Center in Razgrad in the sphere of civic court watch, the process of development of the System of civic court watch, the conclusions and recommendations in the reports for the development of the court raised the authority of the organization in front of the representatives of the court and state institutions. In the cities of North-Eastern planed region where the activity of NGOs Centre in Razgrad is well known, the organization has very high reputation because of the contribution for the development of the court as an institution and opening to the citizens. In the cities of Central Northern and Central Southern regions where the system of the civic court watch is introduced for the first time, the attitude of the representatives of the legal and social institutions is mostly reserved, but there is a kind of curiosity and raised interest in the project. In both regions partners are nongovernmental organizations, which have an experience, authority, which guarantees success.

At the end of October 2008 in Sofia were formed Civic Expert Council in the Commission "Fight against the corruption and professional ethic" in Supreme Juridical Council. Six nongovernmental organizations confirmed their participation: "Club of the journalists against the corruption", "Open society", "Centre for Study of Democracy", "Access to Information Program", "Transparency International" and "The National NGOs Network for Civic Court Watch". The Network is represented by the NGOs Centre in Razgrad which has the function of Secretariate.

The representatives of the civic society shared their expectation the Civic Expert Council to be useful for the transparency and the public communication between the justice system and citizens, and in the local conferences to be discussed principle questions and policies, connected with the legal power. The members of the commission "Fight against the corruption and professional ethic" shared their opinion for the meaning of the new partnership – the availability of back contact, clearness of the social expectations and reactions for the happening in the legal system.

The Chairman of the Commission – Mr. Tsoni Tsonev underlined that making of Code of ethic conduct of Bulgarian Magistrates, making equal of the legal practice are among the main steps for corruption prevention in the legal power.

During the realization of the project on the area of South Central region, NGOs Centre in Razgrad made very good professional contacts with Crime Prevention Fund — IGA in Pazardzhik. From the beginning in 1998 there are over 60 realized projects and the capacity of the organization rises continuously. Fund IGA has very good capacity, which is developing continuously, serious experience in the starting of new models and programs in the social sphere, criminality prevention and anticorruption. The organization is a receiver of international and national prizes.

4. Visibility

The financing program became famous in more than 40 regional cities in the three planed regions in the country – North-Eastern, Northern Central and Southern Central regions with the realized activities till this moment. Thank to the briefings, informational days and press conferences, the project and the financial support of EU reached the representatives of the court, social institutions, important figures, journalists and wide audience. Thank to the public procedure for choosing of 25 NGOs for taking part in the educational trainings and the publicized in the local and regional publications the information reached nongovernmental organizations in the system of civic court watch.