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CENTER FOR DEMOCRACY FOUNDATION

**CENTER FOR DEMOCRACY
FOUNDATION
ANNUAL REPORT 2023**

Belgrade, January 2024.

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Introduction

In 2023, the Center for Democracy Foundation operated under conditions of changing social and geopolitical conditions in Serbia, in the region and in Europe. The reform process in Serbia has slackened, with no significant progress in European integration. This has led to increased skepticism and a decline in public support for the country's European path. Prolonged election processes on national and local level have further slowed down necessary reforms in many areas where the harmonization with the EU *acquis* is needed. The functioning of the democratic institutions, the state of the rule of law, the efficiency of fighting against corruption, reforms in social policy, and needed new labour legislation remain key challenges.

A positive push forward arose from a new narrative on enlargement by the EU and the announcement of the European Growth Plan for the Western Balkans. Serbian civil society has been involved in the work of European institutions through joint activities within the framework of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC), which is significant given that the focus on the social dimension of the European integration process is of the utmost importance to the country's citizenry.

The Government has initiated the adoption of the Development Plan in Serbia which is previewed as a master planning document by the Constitution: a working group was established to draft the decision on the consultation and adoption process of the Development Plan. The CDF representative participated in this working group, advocating for inclusive and participatory consultation process, with particular role to be given to civil society.

The establishment of the Council for Creating the Enabling Environment for Civil Society (Civil Society Council) in September 2023 was expected to be a corner stone in changing the attitude of the state authorities towards the civil society. Despite its formation, consisting of members from the Government and members from civil society (CDF representative was elected), attacks on civil society organizations and civic activists continued.

The Center for Democracy has continued to fulfil its mission of to empower citizens for active participation in making decisions on the community development, through enhancement of democratic procedures, rule of law, public dialogue & human rights-based approach and through advocating for integration of Serbia in the EU and for regional cooperation. It has done so through programmes, activities and through collaboration and partnerships within civil society networks. The CDF continued to contribute to the design and the improvement of public policies, to the support for the process of accession to the EU through information sharing with the citizens,

the enhancement of public dialogue with relevant stakeholders, and to the promotion of the principles of solidarity, tolerance, and respect for human rights. It continued to be actively involved in the work of the National Convention on the EU, where it coordinates the Working Group for Chapters 2 and 19, is member of the Working Group on Chapters 23, and coordinates the multi-sectoral working group on regional cooperation.

The CDF continued to be one of the pivotal organizations in the field of economic and social rights and sustainable development, focusing on the improvement of position of vulnerable groups, and on working in local communities throughout Serbia.

Strategic Plan

In 2023, the CDF acted within the framework of the Strategic Plan for 2023-2026, adopted by the Governing Board on March 22, 2023.

The Strategic Plan foresees the following strategic priorities:

Strategic Priority 1: Improving the Foundation's programme portfolio.

Strategic Priority 2: Strengthening the CDF's capacities.

The following strategic goals have been established within **Strategic Priority 1**:

- ❖ Strategic Goal 1: Improve the quality of public dialogue on topics concerning political, economic and social issues.
- ❖ Strategic Goal 2: Advocacy of European values, promotion of European integration within the political community and Serbian and Western Balkan societies.
- ❖ Strategic Goal 3: Improvement of public policies for sustainable development with respect for human rights, LNOB (Leave No One Behind), and principles of solidarity.

The following strategic goals have been established within **Strategic Priority 2**:

- ❖ Strategic Goal 1: Increasing human resource capacities within the organization.
- ❖ Strategic Goal 2: Diversification of financing resources and increasing its resilience in the changing society.
- ❖ Strategic Goal 3: Increasing visibility in the Serbian society and among its target groups.



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Ahead of the Foundation's 30th Anniversary

In **2023**, we contributed to the improvement of the quality of **public dialogue** on political, economic, and social issues, advocating for **European values** and promoting European integration in Serbia and the Western Balkans. We aimed to enhance **public policies for sustainable development** while respecting human rights, solidarity, and the LNOB principle.

We collaborated with youth, women's organisations, members of various vulnerable groups, trade unions, representatives of state institutions, the academic community, independent institutions, international organisations, the business sector, media, and friends from civil society. We established **new partnerships** in Serbia, in the region, and in Europe, working on **traditional CDF areas of work and initiating new topics**, with nearly **1,000** participants taking part in our programmes and projects.

In **2024**, we will celebrate the **30th anniversary of the establishment of the Center for Democracy Foundation in accordance with the plan of marking the jubilee as adopted by the Governing Board.**

Center for Democracy's 2023 Achievements in numbers

- ✓ We have empowered **38 young people** from the Western Balkans for **civic activism** at the regional Politeia School and thematic sessions. They were encouraged to cooperate regionally on drafting small youth projects promoting EU integration of the Western Balkans.
- ✓ We contributed to the **improvement of public dialogue** on political, economic, and social issues through **13** debates and round tables, with **711** participants from various ways of life – decision makers, experts, activists, media and businesses, enabling large number of participants from out of Belgrade to participate through hybrid conferencing and by ensuring a follow-up outreach through posting of the debates on social networks.
- ✓ We supported **human rights, equality, and the social inclusion** of vulnerable groups at **2** national conferences, with **224** participants. In our

focus were women, older people, youth and Roma, both through our research and public activities, both on national and local level.

- ✓ We strengthened the **capacities of local civil society organisations and activists** through **9** training sessions, seminars, and workshops, with **158** participants.
- ✓ We participated in the preparation, creation, and analysis of **public policy documents** through **12** working bodies for their development and monitoring.
- ✓ We influenced an increase in **understanding and knowledge** of public issues through **recommendations and findings** derived from **7** research studies and publications. We published our traditional annual report on Labour Rights in 2023 and our contribution to the Monitoring Report on Agenda 2030.
- ✓ We achieved **collaboration** and synergistic action for social development through **22 new partnerships** at the local, national, regional, and European levels.
- ✓ We included **115 experts** in the work on our programmes and project activities.
- ✓ We informed the general public about our work as well as we issued statements through **18** press releases, **22** interviews and media appearances, **11** e-newsletters, **6** blogs, while there were over **200** media reports on CDF activities.

Topics

We have expanded the existing thematic areas as well as we created space for the exploration of new areas of work

- European integration in Serbia and the Western Balkan region
- Democracy, citizen participation, and inclusive public policies
- The principle of good governance in Serbia through development planning at local and national levels
 - Socio-economic rights within the context of public policy in Serbia - we advocated for the need to adopt a Social Protection Strategy.
 - Labour rights in Serbia – rights of foreigners, labour law reform, etc.
 - Gender equality – gender budgeting, feminist development and foreign policy, women, peace and security, gender-sensitive language, intersectional discrimination, gender and migration, gender and

climate change, economic empowerment of women in the context of IPARD funds, etc.

- Reducing inequality and empowering socially vulnerable groups – intersectoral connectivity of measures to improve the position of the Roma population.
- Climate change and building resilience to environmental threats were issues elaborated in the context of the situation and vulnerability of marginal groups.

○ 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals with focus on:

• SDG1: No Poverty

- *Ending poverty in all its forms everywhere*



• SDG2: Zero Hunger

- *Ending hunger, quality nutrition and sustainable agriculture*



• SDG3: Good Health and Well-being

- *A healthy life and well-being for all*



• SDG4: Quality Education

- *Inclusive and quality education for children and adults*



• SDG5: Gender Equality

- *Achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls*



• SDG8: Decent Work and Economic Growth

- *Sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work*



• SDG10: Reducing Inequalities

- *Reducing inequality between and within states initiative*



• SDG11: Sustainable Cities and Communities

- *Security and sustainability of cities and settlements*



• SDG16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

- *Promote just, peaceful and inclusive societies*



Projects

We finalised some, continued pending and introduced new projects

- ✚ Regional Youth Dialogue for Europe - RYDE
- ✚ Society Wide Platform - SDGs for All Platform (SDGs4All)
- ✚ Promotion of Human Rights and Environmental Due Diligence (HREDD)
- ✚ Mentoring and Monitoring for Real Impact - MaMRI
- ✚ Dialogue in the Centre – Social Forum
- ✚ Social and Economic Rights and Sustainable Development
- ✚ Inclusion of Roma and other Marginalised Groups in Serbia
- ✚ Extending Social Protection to Families in Serbia with Enhanced Shock-responsiveness (UNFPA)
- ✚ Challenges for Organising and Collective Bargaining in Care, Administration and Waste Management Sectors in Central Eastern European Countries – CEECAW
- ✚ New Quality in Education for Gender Equality – Strategic Partnership for the Development of the Master Study Programme entitled *Law and Gender* – LAWGEM project
- ✚ Skilling Marginalised People to Enter the Labour Market - SMELT
- ✚ The National Convention on the European Union (NCEU) - Coordinator of the Working Group for the negotiation of Chapter 2 and Chapter 19 and the Intersectoral Working Group for Regional Cooperation of the NCEU (Berlin Process)

Strategic Goal 1: Enhancing the quality of public dialogue concerning political, economic and social issues

Open and democratic public debate in society is lacking on topics of economic, political, and social development. Public space for evidence-based discussion and respect for opposing views on public policies, reforms, their implementation, effects, and overall social development is restricted.

The Center for Democracy Foundation contributions to the improvement of public dialogue:

- ✓ In response to the need **for dialogue on current topics important to the citizenship and societal development, public debates** were held in Belgrade, Smederevo, and Pančevo, under the project *Social and Economic Rights and Sustainable Development*, in collaboration with the Olof Palme International Centre.
 - Amendments to the Law on Employing Foreign Residents - What Will Be the Position of Foreign Workers in Serbia?¹ 24.3.2023, Belgrade
 - We've Finished School - Now What Do We Do for Employment?² 25.4.2023, Smederevo



- Are You a Woman Worker or a Man Director?³ 18.5.2023, Belgrade
- Labour Rights for Persons with Disabilities - Caught Between the Law and What Happens in Practice⁴ 20.6.2023, Pančevo

¹ <http://www.centaronline.org/en/event/12834/debate-amendments-to-the-law-on-employing-foreign-residents-what-will-be-the-position-of-foreign-workers-in-serbia>

² <http://www.centaronline.org/en/event/12841/debate-weve-finished-school-now-what-do-we-do-for-employment>

³ <http://www.centaronline.org/en/event/12909/debate-are-you-a-woman-worker-or-a-man-director>

⁴ <http://www.centaronline.org/en/event/12910/debate-in-pancevo-labour-rights-for-persons-with-disabilities-caught-between-the-law-and-what-happens-in-practice>



- ✓ In the array of **socio-economic topics**, we held six public debates titled **Dialogue in the Center - Social Forum**, in collaboration with the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung Foundation (FES), in hybrid format, with an average of 50 participants at the following debates:
 - What Will the New Law on Occupational Health and Safety Mean for the Employees?⁵ 31.3.2023.
 - Availability of Primary and Secondary Education and Health Care Services in Local Community⁶ 12.5.2023.



- German Supply Chain Due Diligence Act Impact on Serbian Companies⁷ 22.6.2023.
- Living Standard of the Citizens facing the Autumn-Winter of 2023/2024⁸ 26.9.2023.

⁵ <http://www.centaronline.org/en/event/12836/debate-what-will-the-new-law-on-occupational-health-and-safety-mean-for-the-people>

⁶ <http://www.centaronline.org/en/event/12908/debate-availability-of-primary-and-secondary-education-and-health-care-services-in-the-local-community>

⁷ <http://www.centaronline.org/en/event/12911/public-debate-what-does-the-german-supply-chain-due-diligence-act-mean-for-serbian-companies>

⁸ <http://www.centaronline.org/en/event/12982/debate-living-standard-of-the-citizenry-and-the-autum-winter-of-20232024>



- Social Protection System and/or *Helicopter Money*⁹ 25.10.2023.
- The Social Dimension of EU Integration - What Reforms Lie Ahead?¹⁰ 30.11.2023.



- ✓ The CDF contributes to improving public dialogue and **continued exchange among decision-makers and independent institutions**. It does this by initiating dialogue and by participating in public consultations, working groups and bodies. **In addition to Dialogue in the Center and other gatherings of key stakeholders it organizes, the CDF is a member of the Council for Gender Equality, Council for the Creation of a Stimulating Environment for the Development of Civil Society, the EU-Serbia Joint Consultative Committee – JCC, the Council for monitoring the implementation of the Strategy for Prevention and Protection against Discrimination, working groups for the development of the anti-corruption strategy, Regulation for the preparation of the procedure for the development of the Development Plan of the Republic of Serbia, the implementation of the initiative Open Government Partnership, and others.**
- ✓ We organized **the national dialogue on social inclusion and economic empowerment of Roma men and women and other marginalised groups**

⁹ <http://www.centaronline.org/en/event/12984/debate-social-protection-system-andor-helicopter-money>

¹⁰ <http://www.centaronline.org/en/event/12975/debate-the-social-dimension-of-eu-integration-what-reforms-lie-ahead>

entitled *Through Cooperation and Good Practice to Sustainable Solutions*, on 15 March 2023 in Belgrade¹¹, in collaboration with the German Organisation for International Cooperation (GIZ). **Recommendations**, developed based on the inputs provided by local self-governments, other national and local actors and experts, **with the aim of enhancing existing practices and policies** relevant to the social inclusion of members of the Roma population, were presented at the conference and were elaborated at dialogue sessions with representatives of key stakeholders.



- ✓ Through the **Regional Youth Dialogue Platform**, we empower youths from the Western Balkan region to **participate in public dialogue concerning reforms and public policies** at local, national, and regional levels.
 - The Politeia Thematic Session *Youth and Employment Policies in the Western Balkans*, November 21-23, 2023, Skopje.
 - The Politeia Thematic Session *Green Agenda and Policy Making in the Western Balkans*, November 27-29, 2023, Belgrade.



- ✓ **Promotion of Human Rights and Environmental Due Diligence (HREDD)**. Through the *Initiative for Global Solidarity (IGS)* project, we organised **a series of dialogues on how to improve due diligence related to human rights**

¹¹ <http://www.centaronline.org/en/event/12797/national-dialogue-on-social-inclusion-and-economic-empowerment-of-roma-men-and-women-and-other-marginalized-groups>

within supply chains, responsible business practices, and grievance mechanisms, with the support of the German Organization for International Cooperation (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit - GIZ). Through a **series of round tables**, we encouraged **open and constructive dialogue** among relevant stakeholders, providing a framework for exchange of experiences and expertise, and contributing to raised awareness about these issues.



- Round table: ***The Role of Civil Society in Protecting Human Rights in Companies***, December 21, 2023, Belgrade¹².
- Public debate: ***The German Supply Chain Due Diligence Act - Implications for Human Rights in Serbia***, October 31, 2023, Niš¹³.

¹² <http://www.centaronline.org/en/event/12990/round-table-the-role-of-civil-society-in-protecting-human-rights-in-companies>

¹³ <http://www.centaronline.org/en/event/12985/public-debate-the-german-supply-chain-due-diligence-act-implications-for-human-rights-in-serbia>

Strategic Goal 2: Advocacy of European values and promotion of European integration within the political community and Serbian and Western Balkan societies

Serbia has not made any progress in accession negotiations over the last two years. As a result, public support for the EU integration process is weakening and reforms have slowed. It is necessary to improve public discourse on Serbia's EU accession process in the Serbian public and demonstrate clear commitment to the implementation of criteria for EU membership.

The Center for Democracy's contribution to the advocacy of European values and promotion of European integration:

- ✓ The Center for Democracy Foundation continuously **monitors reforms, analyses and provides expert assistance to improve the EU accession process**. It advocates for and promotes European values to the public and presents the **advantages of EU membership** to the people of Serbia and the region.
- ✓ In 2023 we continued to advocate for improved dialogue with civil society and their participation in policy design and monitoring.
- ✓ Through participation in the **National Convention on the European Union Programme Council (NCEU PR)** and coordination of the work of the **NCEU Working Group for Negotiation Chapter 2** (Freedom of movement for workers) **and Chapter 19** (Social policy and employment) and the **NCEU Intersectoral Working Group for Regional Cooperation (Berlin Process)**, we contribute through regular monitoring and evaluation of reforms and the formulation of recommendations to the Government of the Republic of Serbia, the European Union, and other stakeholders for improving the integration process in these areas.
- ✓ The traditional VII **Public Reading of the European Commission 2023 Report on Serbia** was held on 14 November 2023¹⁴. This event was organised by the Center for Democracy Foundation, the Centre for Contemporary Politics, and the European Western Balkans, with the participation of the Deputy Head of



¹⁴ <http://www.centaronline.org/en/event/12970/public-reading-of-the-european-commission-2023-report-on-serbia>

the Delegation of the European Union to Serbia, the NCEU, the Belgrade Centre for Security Policy (BCSP), the Lawyers' Committee for Human Rights (YUCOM), and the European Movement in Serbia (EMinS). The **most significant findings of the European Commission** were presented at the public reading. Assessment of Serbia's advancement made by the EC was compared to other WB economies.



- ✓ We contributed to **strengthening active public support for reforms and European Union integration** both in Serbia and the Western Balkans by implementing the three-year regional project entitled **Regional Youth Dialogue for Europe - RYDE**, which, with the **support of the European Union**, is currently being implemented by the CDF in partnership with 6 regional civil society organisations.



- **The POLITEIA Regional School for Youth Participation 2023**, held from July 6-12, 2023 in Niš¹⁵, with 25 young participants from **Albania, North**

¹⁵ <https://politeia.institute/en/eu-integration-dialogue-cooperation-and-participation-of-youth-in-western-balkans-politeia-regional-school-2023/>

Macedonia, Kosovo*, BiH, Montenegro and Serbia, with the participation of the Ministry of European Integration of the Government of the Republic of Serbia, Delegation of the European Union to Serbia, European Association for Local Democracy (ALDA), Regional Cooperation Council (RCC), Regional Youth Cooperation Office (RYCO), as well as numerous regional and European experts.



- ✓ We participated in relevant **events at the European, regional and national levels** among which are:
 - The Western Balkans’ Euro-Atlantic Integration Regional, Transatlantic and Civil Society Perspectives International Conference, as part of the project: *Strengthening EU Integration in Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia*, implemented by the Balkan Trust for Democracy of the German Marshall Fund of the U.S. – BTM, with the support of the Embassy of the Kingdom of Norway in Belgrade and the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, February 28, 2023, Belgrade
 - Public Hearing entitled *Youth Action Plan to Youth Worldwide: Next Step – Implementation!* - European Economic and Social Committee (EESC), February 2023.
 - The General Assembly of ALDA (European Association for Local Democracy), Brussels,¹⁶ June 2023, participation in the panel on Combating Hate Speech, and participation in the panel on Gender Equality and Anti-discrimination Policy

¹⁶ <http://www.centaronline.org/en/event/12867/on-the-eve-of-the-general-assembly-the-governing-board-of-alda-elects-natasa-vuckovic-as-new-vice-president>



- EU TACSO 3: EU Civil Society Forum for the Western Balkans and Türkiye 2023, May-June 2023.
- Civil Society Forum, within the framework of the Berlin Process Summit, October 2023.
- European Association for Local Democracy: Participation in the Western Balkans and EU Integration Conference, ALDA Skopje, October 2023.
- Social Dialogue entitled: *The Role and Significance of the Optional Protocol in Protecting Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights of Youth*, organised by the Belgrade Centre for Human Rights, EU Info Centre, and the Ministry for Human and Minority Rights and Social Dialogue, December 2023.

Strategic Goal 3: Enhancing public policies for sustainable development while respecting human rights, LNOB principles, and solidarity

Serbia lacks significant public policy documents that would improve the lives of its people and sustainable societal development. The preparation, adoption, and monitoring of these documents require the involvement of all relevant stakeholders. There is a need to accelerate reforms in social policy, labour legislation, more efficient implementation of initiated reforms in occupational health and safety, gender equality, social inclusion, poverty eradication, combating discrimination, and other areas.

The Center for Democracy Foundation contributes to improving public policies by advocating and participating in their preparation processes, providing expert knowledge, strengthening the capacities of various stakeholders, monitoring implementation and analysing the effects of public policies. We advocated for sustainable societal development based on human rights principles, while respecting the 'Leave No One Behind' principle as proclaimed by the United Nations 2030 Agenda, and principles of solidarity.

- ✓ **Creating and collecting knowledge** (monitoring, alternative policy proposals, research, analysis, studies):
 - Monitoring the implementation of the Action Plan for Chapter 2 and Chapter 19 with the Appendix for the Book of Recommendations of the National Convention on the European Union 2023.¹⁷
 - Monitoring Report - **Serbia 2030 - Many Challenges, Little Time: Is Serbia Set on its Development Path?**¹⁸ (SDGs for All Platform)



¹⁷ <http://www.centaronline.org/en/publication/1928/nceu-recommendations-2023>

¹⁸ <http://www.centaronline.org/en/publication/1930/serbia-2030-many-challenges-little-time-is-serbia-set-on-its-development-path>

- Analysis: *On the Draft Law on Labour Practices, Seasonal Work and Strike*¹⁹, prepared within the framework of the *Socio-economic Rights and Sustainable Development* project, June 2023.
- Study: *Intersectional Discrimination of Women and Girls with Disabilities and Means of their Empowerment*,²⁰ published as part of the LAWGEM project (a CDF partner).
- Publications: *Poverty Projections for Older Persons*²¹ and *The Impact of the Global Crisis on Vulnerable Groups*²² in collaboration with the UNFPA - Extending Social Protection to Families in Serbia with Enhanced Shock-responsiveness) – media presentation, January 2023.



- Study: *Improving the Lives of Marginalised Groups*, prepared as part of the Erasmus+ project: SMELT - Skilling Marginalised People to Enter the Labour Market.
- Field research on youth activism and a Desk Study on youth policies in the Western Balkans (in the final phase, under the RYDE project).
- Through local-level research with partner organisations, valuable data and knowledge have been collected which may be useful in shaping public policies. The results were presented at the final conference entitled **Key Challenges in Ensuring Gender Equality in Serbia: The Fight Against Gender-**

¹⁹ <http://www.centaronline.org/sr/publikacija/1922/analiza-o-nacrtima-zakona-o-radnim-praksama-sezonskim-poslovima-i-strajku>

²⁰ <http://www.centaronline.org/en/publication/1915/intersectional-discrimination-of-women-and-girls-with-disabilities>

²¹ <http://www.centaronline.org/en/publication/1912/poverty-projections-for-older-persons>

²² <http://www.centaronline.org/en/publication/1910/the-impact-of-the-global-crisis-on-vulnerable-groups>

based Violence Against Women and Recognition of Unpaid Work²³
under the *Mentoring and Monitoring for Real Impact* project, December 2023.



- Analysis: *Poverty Reduction through Sustainable Agriculture in Serbia*²⁴ was prepared as part of the work of the thematic group Eradication of Poverty within the framework of the Sustainable Development for All Platform. December 2023.
 - The Annual Report on Labour Rights in the Republic of Serbia, January 2024.
- ✓ Building **capacity at the local level** (training, mentoring, debates, intermunicipal learning):
- Two-day **training for 5 local women's organizations** - creating real impact in the field of gender mainstreaming with the goal of increasing knowledge on gender and climate change issues, economic empowerment of women in the context of IPARD funds, labour rights, and anti-discrimination, etc. Kragujevac, October 2023²⁵.
 - **Debates in Smederevo and Pančevo** were organized in collaboration with local organisations.
 - **Expert workshops (4)** aimed at representatives of local women's organizations and those supporting vulnerable social groups, September-November 2023; Topics: *Gender Mainstreaming Public Policies; Gender Budgeting; German Feminist Development and Foreign Policy; Women, Peace, and Security in the Republic of Serbia; Gender-Sensitive Language;*

²³ <http://www.centaronline.org/en/event/12954/conference-key-challenges-in-ensuring-gender-equality-in-serbia-fight-against-gender-based-violence-against-women-and-recognition-of-unpaid-work>

²⁴ <http://www.centaronline.org/en/publication/1932/analysis-poverty-reduction-through-sustainable-agriculture-in-serbia-with-summary>

²⁵ <http://www.centaronline.org/en/event/12983/training-enhancing-the-impact-of-gender-mainstreaming>

*Application of the Law on Gender Equality; Intersectional Discrimination; Gender and Migration*²⁶.

- **Mentoring projects** of 5 women's organisations in local communities, under the *Mentoring and Monitoring for Real Impact*²⁷ project, June-December 2023.
- Enhancing **local economic development planning through inter-municipal collaboration**, November 11, 2023, Niš: Co-organisation and programme participation.
- ✓ **Inter-municipal cooperation and exchange in Vojvodina** - Economic empowerment of women considering sustainable development goals - integrating gender perspectives into local economic development planning, October 10, 2023.
- ✓ **Coordination of the** thematic groups established within the SDGs4All project on **poverty reduction** and **gender equality** that connect policy makers, activists and experts.

Partnerships and Networking

New partnerships in Serbia, the Western Balkan region, and the European Union were established

CDF as the lead partner-coordinator on the **Regional Youth Dialogue for Europe** - *RYDE* project with the following partners:

- Academy of European Integrations and Negotiations (AIEN), Tirana
- Kosovar Stability Initiative (IKS), Pristina
- Network of Progressive Initiatives (NPI), Sarajevo
- NGO Info Center (NGO IC), Skopje
- Regional Academy for Democratic Development (ADD), Novi Sad
- Youth Act Center (YA), Tirana

RYDE
Regional Youth Dialogue
for Europe



Funded by
the European Union

²⁶ <http://www.centaronline.org/en/event/12980/workshops-for-the-empowerment-of-womens-organisations-and-the-improvement-of-gender-equality>

²⁷ <http://www.centaronline.org/en/project/1806/mentoring-and-monitoring-for-real-impact>



The CDF is a partner in the consortium for the **SDGs for All Platform** project. Other partners include:

- Ana and Vlade Divac Foundation (AVDF)
- Center for Advanced Economic Studies (CEVES)
- Belgrade Open School (BOS)
- Association for Sustainable Communities Development (TOC)
- Foundation BFPE for a Responsible Society
- SMART Collective



CDF as a partner on the **Challenges for Organising and Collective Bargaining in Care, Administration and Waste Management sectors in Central Eastern European Countries** project (commencing from November 2023, with the support of the EU), and with the following new partners:

- Institute of Public Affairs (IPA) – Poland (lead partner / project coordinator)
- Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (IPS-BAS) – Bulgaria
- Lithuanian Centre for Social Sciences (LCSS) – Lithuania

- Central European Labour Studies Institute (CELSI) – Czech Republic, Hungary and Slovakia
- European Public Service Union (EPSU) – EU



Challenges for Organising and Collective Bargaining in Care, Administration and Waste collection sectors in Central Eastern European Countries



Funded by the European Union

The CDF is the lead partner-mentor on the **Mentoring and Monitoring for Real Impact** (MaMRI) project.

- Gender Knowledge Hub (Novi Sad)
- Association of Women Sandglass (Kruševac)
- Citizens' Association Ternipe (Pirotd)
- Women's Centre UŹice (UŹice)
- Women's Association of the Kolubara District WAKD (Lazarevac)



Other non-project related **partners/collaborators**: Aarhus Centre Novi Sad; UŹice Centre for Human Rights; Belgrade Centre for Human Rights; Fem Platz; A11; Timok Club; Zrenjanin Social Forum; International Rescue Committee; Centre for Decent Work; United Branch Trade Union Independence; Confederation of Autonomous Trade Unions of Serbia; Serbian Chamber of Commerce; Serbian Association of Employers; Union of Employers of Vojvodina; Regional Development agencies; Institute for Sociological Research; Forum of Civil Action (FORCA), PoŹega; Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities (SCTM); International Labour Organisation; and others.

Network at the Serbian and Regional Levels

- ✓ Standing working bodies:
 - NCEU Working Group for Chapters 2 (Freedom of Movement for Workers) and 19 (Social Policy and Employment)
 - NCEU Working Group for Regional Collaboration (Berlin Process)
 - Council for Creating a Supportive Environment for Civil Society Development (Nataša Vučković, member), September 2023.
 - EU Serbia Joint Consultative Committee – JCC, November 2023.
 - Enlargement Candidate Members’ Initiative of the European Economic and Social Committee, December 2023.
 - Platform of Organisations for Cooperation with the United Nations Human Rights Mechanisms
- ✓ Temporary working bodies:
 - Membership in the Working Group for drafting the Decree on the Procedure for RS Development Plan Preparation, March 2023; the Decree was adopted in June 2023.
 - Membership in the Working Group for drafting the Fight Against Corruption Strategy, May 2023.
 - Council of the RS Government for implementation of the Gender Equality Strategy, commencing from 2022.
 - Council of the RS Government for monitoring the implementation of the Strategy for Prevention and Protection Against Discrimination for the period 2022-2030.
 - Special Inter-ministerial Working Group for drafting the fifth Action Plan for Implementation of the Open Government Partnership Initiative in the RS.
 - Special Working Group for drafting the Proposal of the Action Plan for Creating an Enabling Environment for the Development of Civil Society for the period 2022-2030 (2024-2026).
 - Working Group for drafting the Proposal of the Action Plan for 2024 and 2025 for implementation of the Gender Equality Strategy for the period 2021-2030.

Center for Democracy Foundation in the Public Eye

Increasing visibility in the general public and among target groups

- ✓ **Improved communication with the public through a dynamic and diversified content and communication channels.**
 - **CDF Press Releases and Statements:**
 - Press Release: *Relationship Between Educational Institutions and the Church* (30.1.2023)
 - Call for peace and support of civil society colleagues in Ukraine (15.2.2023)
 - Press release commemorating World Day of Social Justice (20.2.2023)
 - Press release ahead of International Women's Day (8.3.2023)
 - Press Release: World Day for Safety and Health at Work (28.4.2023)
 - Press release ahead of International Workers' Day (1.5.2023)
 - Support for the demands of trade unions to increase minimum wage (23.8.2023)
 - Serbian Membership in the EU – Key to a Better Life for the People, Expediting Reforms and Euro Integration (1.9.2023)
 - Press release ahead of International Day of Democracy (15.9.2023)
 - Press release ahead of International Day of Older Persons (1.10.2023)
 - Press release commemorating World Day of Decent Work (7.10.2023)
 - Press release ahead of the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty (17.10.2023)
 - **Joint Press Releases and Statements:**
 - Europe Day, a Call for Solidarity and Collaboration, NCEU (09.5.2023)
 - Appeal of Civil Society Organisations to the President of the Republic (23.5.2023)
 - Support of the Falc East Workers' Strike, Knjaževac (03.6.2023)

- Open Letter to the Government of the Republic of Serbia and the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Serbia (21.7.2023)
- Open Letter to the Government of the Republic of Serbia regarding minimum wage negotiations (06.9.2023)
- Labour Proclamation 2023 (29.11.2023)
- **Support of Other Organisations and Individuals:**
 - Supporting professors of the Faculty of Political Sciences (20.3.2023)
 - CDF's condolences following the tragic events at the Vladislav Ribnikar Primary School (3.5.2023)
 - Protest against the arrest of Boško Savković, Chair of Serbian JCC delegation - a serious threat to freedom of expression (6.6.2023)
 - Protection of human rights and the safety of the citizenry of crucial importance - CDF's support to the Children's Rights Centre of Užice (4.7.2023)
- **Statements and Interviews:**
 - Interview for Politika on EU, Russia, Kosovo, Ukraine (29.1.2023)
 - Statement for TV Nova S on the Council of Europe and Kosovo (1.2.2023)
 - Interview for TV K1 on poverty projections in Serbia (10.2.2023)
 - Interview for TV Nova S on current political issues, the judiciary (28.2.2023)
 - Interview for TV N1 on youth priorities, education (26.4.2023)
 - Interview for Radio Belgrade 1 on social services in the local community (24.5.2023)
 - Statement for Radio Belgrade 1 on youth cooperation and the Politeia School (1.6.2023)
 - Interview for TV Nova S on parliament and hate speech (29.6.2023)
 - Interview for Insajder TV on public administration reform (5.7.2023)
 - Statement for Tanjug/Belami on the role of civil society and the citizenry in EU integration (10.7.2023)
 - Interview for Dnevnik TV Nova S on minimum wages (27.8.2023)
 - Statement for Deutsche Welle on education accessibility (11.09.2023)

- Statement for Insajder TV on diplomacy and foreign policy (13.9.2023)
- Statement for Dnevnik 2 RTS on EU enlargement and reform (20.9.2023)
- Interview for TV Nova S on UN, EU, elections, parliament, violence, protests, etc. (20.9.2023)
- Statement for FoNet on EU enlargement and Serbia's and the region's European integration (24.9.2023)
- Interview for TV EuroNews on poverty and living standards (1.10.2023)
- Statement for Blic TV on the fight against poverty (17.10.2023)
- Interview for Dnevnik TV Nova S on campaign and social issues (2.11.2023)
- Interview for FoNet on the EC report and European integration (12.11.2023)
- Interview for TV N1 on the fight for gender equality (8.12.2023)
- **We informed the public and general population** through 221 press releases²⁸ and 11 e-newsletters²⁹ concerning the CDF's activities. For more information, contact us by e-mail at: info@centaronline.org³⁰

Center for Democracy Foundation

²⁸ <http://www.centaronline.org/en/press/>

²⁹ <http://www.centaronline.org/en/bulletin/>

³⁰ <http://www.centaronline.org/en/contact/>