

# **SUMMARY**

## **FINANCING OF**

### **NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS**

### **FROM THE STATE BUDGET FOR**

# **2020**

## SUMMARY OF THE FINANCING OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS FROM THE STATE BUDGET FOR 2020

During 2020, 10 ministries announced 28 calls for financing NGO projects. Based on the decisions published in 2020, a total of 151 organizations received funds to finance their projects, more precisely 289 projects. A total of 3,241,812.23 euros was distributed, while 28 partnerships were formed.

**The Ministry of Health** did not publish a call for project proposals, although they had to do so by March 1, 2020, while the call for a member of the Commission for the Allocation of Funds to Non-Governmental Organizations was published in September 2020.

Regarding the legal obligation of the ministries to publish the call for project proposals of non-governmental organizations by March 1, 2020, **the Ministries of Transport and Maritime Affairs, Agriculture and Rural Development, for Human and Minority Rights**, published the calls within the prescribed deadline, while others ministries were on average 35 days late with the announcement of the call, with the Ministry of the Interior being the most late - 157 days.

The decisions were on average published **five months** after the call for submission of project proposals was announced, whereas the majority of decisions was published in October 2020. More precisely, eight decisions were published in July 2020, two in August, two in September, 10 in October, three in November and one in December 2020. Most of the contracts with the ministries were signed at the end of October or beginning of November.

To date, **the Ministry of Defense** has not published the decisions on the distribution of funds for the two calls they issued, although NGOs submitted their project proposals along with all necessary documentation.

When it comes to the amount of funds allocated for the implementation of projects, over 100 thousand euros were received by two organizations: Centar kreativnih vještina (Center of Creative Skills) - 111,401.00 euros for 11 projects and Institut za socijalnu i obrazovnu politiku (Institute for Social and Education Policy)- 102,917.20 euros for eight projects. Last year, these two organizations also received funds for the implementation of projects, with Center of Creative Skills in first place in 2019 in terms of the amount of funds received (112,612.00 euros), while Institute for Social and Education Policy received 50,311.20 euros last year.

Furthermore, the organizations that received the highest amounts for project implementation are: Association of Youth with Disabilities of Montenegro (UMHCG), which received 99,013.46 euros for six projects; NGO Identitet, which received 91,547 euros for eight projects; Association of Parents of Children with Developmental Disabilities Podgorica, which received 88,492.10 euros for five projects; Center for Rural Development - EUR 85,208.00 for eight projects; The Association of the Blind of Montenegro received 78,215.02 for five projects, Đakomo Adriatic - 73,600 for eight projects, (Ray of hope) Zračak nade - 67,332.78 for three projects and the NGO Multimedial - 65,608.28 for seven projects. In total, these **10 organizations received 863,334.84 euros for 69 projects**, which is **26.63% of the total amount** of allocated funds and **23.87% of the total number of supported projects**.

It is important to mention that many organisations appealed to the Decision for Allocation of Funds within the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Work and Social Welfare, since funds were allocated to organisations that do not have capacities to implement these projects, while organisations that operate only in those fields did not receive funds. In addition, the link between some organisations that received funds and the representative of NGOs within the Commission for the Allocation of Funds to NGOs was questionable, since it was noticed that many organisations that provided support to the candidate (NGO representative) received funds through the exact call.

**Hence, conclusions and recommendations are the following:**

- It is necessary to start drafting Amendments to the Law on Non-Governmental Organizations in the part of:
  - o Prescribing the legal deadline for publishing Decisions on the allocation of funds for financing NGO projects and programs, no more than 90 days from the date of expiration of the deadline for submission of project proposals;
  - o Prescribing appropriate sanctions for ministries that do not conduct the process of allocating funds as prescribed by law.
- These changes need to be made as soon as possible, since during 2020, on average, after five months from the announcement of the call, the ministries published decisions on the allocation of funds to non-governmental organizations. Also, three ministries did not complete the process of allocating funds, namely: **The Ministry of Defense**, which did not publish decisions for two calls, **the Ministry of Economy**, which suspended the process of allocating funds, i.e. canceled the call for project proposals, and the **Ministry of Health**, which did not publish the call nor the decision, although it was foreseen in the budget for 2020.
- It is necessary to reconsider the role of NGO representatives in Commissions for Allocation of Funds to NGOs, as the connection between NGO representatives and the organizations that supported their candidacy, which received funding for projects under this call, is questioned.
- Powers to select independent evaluators should be given to Commissions, i.e. the competent ministries, and not only to the Ministry of Public Administration (Digital Society and Media), as has been the case so far. In addition, biographies of independent evaluators should be available, in order to determine their expertise in the areas in which they evaluate projects.
- It is necessary to set a limit when it comes to independent evaluators, i.e. not allow the same evaluators to be hired for two or more years in a row, as has been the case so far.





# RESURSNICENTAR

Centar za razvoj nevladinih organizacija



Crna Gora  
Ministarstvo javne uprave  
digitalnog društva i medija



**CRNVO**  
CENTAR ZA RAZVOJ NVO