

**Project Proposal: “Strengthening Civil Society through Central Serbia NGO Coalition”**

***Submitted by:***

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Responsible person: Radovan Milicevic

## APPLICANT

### 1. Lead NGO

Name: NGOs Forum Kraljevo– **Regional Center of Civic Action LINGUA**  
Director: Radovan Milicevic,  
Project Manager: Milenko Nesovic,  
Finance Manager: Marina Pantovic,  
Phone/Fax: 036 353 959  
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### 2. NGO Information

**NGOs Forum - Kraljevo** is an association of three non-governmental organizations (Regional Center of Citizens Action LINGUA/Kraljevo, Belgrade Center for Human Rights/Kraljevo, and Kwart/Kraljevo). **The first one is the NGO responsible for all financial and administrative issues related to the Forum's activities.** The Kraljevo NGOs Forum will join with other NGOs in central Serbia to implement collaborative programs related to strengthening citizens and community groups. All NGO partners in this coalition will be non-political, non-profit organizations implementing programs related to economic development, civil society education, human rights, advocacy and the environment.

### 3. Title and Brief Summary of Projects Completed in the last year

Project Title	Summary
Informative Club with Info-Desk	Human Rights Project
Woman Workshops	Development Project
Aid to Roma IDPs settled in CC "Old Airport"	Income Generated Project
Reconstruction of 4 Collective Centers	Infrastructure Project
Computer School with Internet Café	Educational Project for young people
"I am also the citizen of this town"	Anti-xenophobia Project
A Friend in Need	Volunteering Project
Legal Aid to Roma refugees in Macedonia	Human Rights Project
Partners For Development	Micro credits Project
Establishing a Regional Center for the Development of Non-Profit Sector in Central Serbia	Project of strengthening of NGOs in Central Serbia (in cooperation with CRNPS Belgrade)

### 4. Other Donors in the past year:

**Norwegian People's Aid – Belgrade**

80,000 EUR  
6 months (in progress)

**Comite catholique contre la faim et pour le developpement – France**

20,000 EUR  
9 months

**International Orthodox Christian Charities – Belgrade**

8,000 EUR  
4 months

**Norwegian Refugees Council – Belgrade**

14,000 EUR  
4 months

**Center for the Development of Non-Profit Sector – Belgrade**  
4,000 EUR  
6 months (in progress)

**Hellenic Development Network “European Perspective” – Kragujevac**  
3,000 EUR  
2 months (in progress)

5. Total Budget in 2002: **210,000 EUR**  
Total Budget in 2001: **129,550 EUR**

6. Partner organizations in the past year:

**Norwegian Peoples Aid – Belgrade**  
Claudio Feo, Program Manager for South East Europe  
Tel/Fax: 011/322-57-33  
E-mail: [claudio@npa.org.yu](mailto:claudio@npa.org.yu)  
[www.npa.org](http://www.npa.org)

**CRNPS – Belgrade**  
Zarko Paunovic, Director  
Tel/Fax: 011/328-33-06  
E-mail: [info@crnps.org.yu](mailto:info@crnps.org.yu)  
[www.crnps.org.yu](http://www.crnps.org.yu)

**Norwegian Refugees Council – Belgrade**  
Slobodanka Krcevinac, Deputy Residential Representative  
Tel/Fax: 011/458-434  
E-mail: [nrcbgd@Eunet.yu](mailto:nrcbgd@Eunet.yu)

**Comite catholique contre la faim et pour le developpement – France**  
Gaelle Le Jeune, CCFD -Service Europe  
Tel: 01 44 82 81 62; Fax: 01 44 82 81 44  
E-mail: [g.lejeune@ccfd.asso.fr](mailto:g.lejeune@ccfd.asso.fr)

**Hellenic Development Network “European Perspective” – Kragujevac**  
Radmila Radovic, Program Manager  
Tel/Fax: 034/301-909  
E-mail: [europers@infosky.net](mailto:europers@infosky.net)  
[www.hhdn.org.yu](http://www.hhdn.org.yu)

**American Refugees Committee – Skopje, Macedonia**  
Aleksandar Ljustina, Program Coordinator  
E-mail: [aco@arc.org.mk](mailto:aco@arc.org.mk)

## PROJECT

1. Title: **“Strengthening Civil Society through Central Serbia NGO Coalition”**
2. Start and end date - October 14, 2002 through October 15, 2003
3. Objectives

The objectives of this program are:

- To increase cooperation between community groups, local government, and the private sector 12 municipalities in Central Serbia
- To strengthen civil society networks in Central Serbia

4. Summary

Independent civil society organizations have only recently begun to develop in Serbia since from 1945 until the late 1980s, citizen’s associations could only operate within the strict limits imposed by the state.<sup>1</sup> Because of that history, NGOs and community-based organization (CBOs) can benefit from capacity building support, particularly if that support helps promote linkages, networks and collaborative work across geographic and sectoral boundaries. A strong civil society will be critical in advancing Serbia’s democratization processes.

The goal of this project is to promote civil society participation in collaborative problem-solving and action planning involving representatives of community groups, local authorities, local NGOs and the private sector. This project will complement the work of the “Community Revitalization through Democratic Action” (CRDA) project funded by USAID and implemented by ACDI/VOCA in Central Serbia. The project will be implemented by a loose coalition of local NGOs that have already been working informally together through their role in providing technical assistance to 60 community groups in 12 municipalities through the CRDA project which implements development projects designed and monitored by community boards. The project will help local NGOs expand their role by providing training in subjects not covered through the CRDA program such as public policy advocacy, citizen’s rights, and understanding potential opportunities for citizen’s groups to advise, monitor and participate in local government processes and procedures related to community development. Specific activities will include seminars for community groups, municipal level problem solving/action planning workshops, and media seminars.

The lead NGO for this project, the Kraljevo NGO forum, already has strong experience in promoting NGO networking and community development initiatives through its role as an implementing partner for the Center for the Development of Non-Profit Sector. The same is true for another of the coalition partners – European Movement in Smederevska Palanka. Many of the other partners have civil society strengthening as their particular mandate and focus. Together this group of NGOs has considerable previous expertise in implementing the proposed project. A list of the NGO partners appears below.

NGO	CONTACT INFO.	DIRECTOR	FOCUS
CITIZENS' PARLIAMENT, Cacak	Rajiceva 18, 032/ 349 811	Mirjana Hercog	Civil Society Development
TANGO, Kragujevac	J. Veselinovica 29, 034/ 361 445	I. Mihailovic	Capacity building, Skills development, economic development

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<sup>1</sup> From “Third Sector in Serbia” written by the NGO Policy Group, Center for the Development of Non-Profit Sector

NGO	CONTACT INFO.	DIRECTOR	FOCUS
NGOs FORUM, Kraljevo	Vuka Karadzica 14, 036/ 353 959	R. Milicevic	Community Development, Human rights
ALKA, Pozarevac	Hotel "Dunav" I/7, 012/ 212 947	Z. Djordjevic	Civil Society Development
EUROP. MOVEMENT, Smederevska Palanka	10. Oktobra 5, 026/ 323 289	M. Milosevic	Civil Society Development

## 5. Activities

For each municipality, the NGO coalition will organize the following:

- **Planning sessions** will be held by NGO partners which will study issues that have been raised during town meetings in each municipality and in follow-up stakeholder discussions. They will then identify resource persons who can produce background papers the policy implications of each issue, and who can present the issues to community groups. Finally, NGO partners will plan logistics for organizing the next three activities, and divide and delegate management responsibility.
- **Community Group Seminars** will be offered to community groups in each municipality covering topics identified and researched above. At the end of each seminar, community groups will have a chance to organize position papers to present during the municipality workshops below
- **Municipality-wide Workshops** will be organized to explore priority issues which present a potential for collaborative problem solving approaches by local authorities, community groups and the private sector. Organizing committees made of NGO and CBO partners will approach representatives from the other sectors to update them on their work to date, and to invite them to contribute their input during the workshop.
- **Media seminars** will be organized by the NGO partners before each workshop in order to present the workshop process and to distribute background information on the issues to be discussed during the workshops. Technical support in this area can be accessed from the ACDI/VOCA Public Education department which offers media training to local NGOs.

## 6. Participants

Activity	Participants	Target Audience	Primary Beneficiaries
NGO Planning Sessions	5-6 NGO partners	25 NGO staff and volunteers	local community groups
Community Group Seminars	60 CRDA citizens boards and other community-based organizations (CBOs)	1,000 community members	local community groups representing a population of over 1 million
Municipality workshops	Representatives from community groups (500), local NGOs (100), local authorities (120), and the private sector (120)	general public (through televised sections)	Residents of 5 municipalities
Media Seminars	50 Journalists	general public	general public

## 7. Products

Products from this project will include 1) materials related to the community group seminars (such as handouts on citizen's rights, local government structure and budgeting processes, advocacy techniques, etc.), 2) press releases and other handouts for media seminars, and 3) background papers to be used in the municipal-wide workshops (on topics such as local environmental and economic concerns, etc.)

## 8. Impact and Results

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Impact</b>
NGO Planning Sessions	Coalition members gain experience in collaborative initiatives
Community Group Seminars	Community groups increase skills and knowledge related to effective interaction with local authorities
Municipal workshops	Community groups, local NGOs, local authorities and private sector representatives collaborate to identify issues of mutual concern and to generate constructive plans for addressing the concerns.
Media Seminars	Media professionals publicize information on issues identified during the municipal problem-solving workshops.

## 9. Geographic Coverage

In partnership with citizen's boards founded through the CRDA project, this project will focus on at least 12 municipalities in central Serbia (Kragujevac, Kraljevo, Smederevska Palanka, Smederevo, Vrnjacka Banja, Cacak, Cuprija, Jagodina, Arandjelovac, Gornji Milanovac and Topola. The combined populations in these municipalities are over one million people. The NGO members of the coalition, however, have linkages with NGOs in many other municipalities, and these too would be invited to events. Although some of these municipalities already have a number of strong local NGOs (particularly Kragujevac), others do not yet, and project organizers will seek out young NGOs in those regions in order to ensure they have the opportunity to participate and enhance their skills in community organizing.

## 10. Management Plan

Kraljevo NGO Forum/**Regional Centre of Civic Action LINGUA** will take the lead in administering and reporting on project implementation in close collaboration with other coalition members. This lead NGO will appoint a Project Manager to organize activities and the Finance Director will establish a set of accounts for the program. Other NGO partners will prepare budgets for events they are organizing, then submit receipts to the Kraljevo NGOs Forum for reimbursement based on this approved budget. Division of management responsibilities will be decided during the NGO planning sessions.

## 11. Evaluation Methodology

The project will be evaluated using the following indicators and means of verification. :

<b>IMPACT</b>	<b>INDICATOR</b>	<b>VERIFICATION MEANS</b>
Coalition members gain experience in collaborative initiatives	Each NGO partner sponsors events in their designated municipalities and participates in producing issue papers according to their area of expertise	Events records including lists of participants
Community groups increase skills and knowledge related to effective interaction with local authorities	80% of seminar participants report finding seminar content useful in approaching local authorities  50% of the participating community groups initiate a follow-up activity involving local authority cooperation	Seminar evaluation forms  Community group reports submitted to lead NGO
Community groups, local NGOs, local authorities and private sector representatives collaborate to identify issues of mutual concern and to generate constructive plans for addressing the concerns.	12 municipal workshops planned and delivered with input from representatives from each sector  12 municipal follow-up action plans produced with roles for each sector	Workshop records  Action Plan documents
Media professionals publicize information on issues identified during the municipal problem-solving workshops.	50% of the participating journalists publish articles on workshop related issues	Media monitoring reports compiled by ACIDI/VOCA

## BUDGET

### 1. Summary

The total cost of this project is \$33,200 which includes \$7,200 in-kind contribution from the applicants and \$18,000 from other donors.

### 2. Chart

	F. H.	OTHER DONORS	IN-KIND	TOTAL
<b>Maintenance Costs</b>				
Supervision (NGO staff @ \$125/month)	1,500.00			1,500.00
Rental @ \$100/month			1,200.00	1,200.00
Office Materials @ \$25/month	300.00			300.00
Telephone/fax @ \$50/month	600.00			600.00
NGO Support Center Costs		18,000.00		18,000.00
Transportation @ \$100/month	1,200.00			1,200.00
<b>Honoraria</b>				
Resource Persons (12 x 3 days @ \$50/day)	1,800.00			1,800.00
Partner NGO Staff (10 @ \$300/month x 2 months)			6,000.00	6,000.00
Workshop Facilitators (12 x 1 x \$50)	600.00			600.00
<b>Direct Program Costs</b>				
Photocopies (1,000 @ .05)	50.00			50.00
Refreshments (12 events x 25 x \$3)	900.00			900.00
Workshop Materials (12 events x 25 x \$1.5)	450.00			450.00
Venue (12 events x \$50)	600.00			600.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8,000.00</b>	<b>18,000.00</b>	<b>7,200.00</b>	<b>33,200.00</b>

### 3. Cost share

Cost sharing includes \$7,200 from the applicants and \$18,000 from another donor. The applicants' share includes an estimated 2 months of time on the part of two staff members per each of the NGOs in the coalition as well as a contribution of space on the part of the lead NGO.

The \$18,000 represents the projected funding level that ACDI/VOCA will commit to supporting the NGOs' work with community groups as part of their "NGO Support Center" program. This work is complementary to activities the proposed project and vital in establishing strong links between the partner NGOs and 60 community groups.