
Call for Applications for Civil Society Organizations: Capacity Building in Parliamentary Oversight

The Swiss Development and Cooperation (SDC) project “*Support to Parliament and Civil Society*” (PACEP II), implemented by Global Partners Governance (GPG) Albania, is hereby inviting Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in Albania to express their interest in participating in a 16-month capacity building programme on parliamentary oversight. At the end of the programme, CSOs will increase their understanding of the legislative and oversight processes in Albania, improve their capacities in producing analytical and advocacy work that contributes to these processes, as well as be supported to leverage networks for increasing their impact.

This capacity building programme contributes to the PACEP II’s aim of enhancing the effectiveness of parliamentary oversight by simultaneously supporting all key actors: (i) the Assembly, (ii) independent oversight institutions, and (iii) civil society organizations through capacity building initiatives, and by creating opportunities and incentives for collaboration.

You can find more information on the PACEP II project [here](#).

Context

Albania is currently experiencing a critical phase of its democratic transition and European Union integration, necessitating the establishment of stronger institutions that ensure accountable governance, transparent decision-making, and active public participation. Parliamentary oversight is a fundamental element in achieving these objectives. Despite the establishment of legal framework, such as the Law on the Registration of Non-Profit Organizations (2021) and the Law on Public Consultation (2014), implementation discrepancies impede CSOs’ effective engagement in oversight and policy advocacy. While there are over 12,000 registered CSOs in Albania, only a small fraction is actively involved in these processes. Thus, the enhancement of CSOs’ capacities to engage in oversight activities is imperative for the promotion of transparency, the establishment of public trust, and the assurance of effective governance.

The objective of this initiative is to strengthen the role of CSOs in parliamentary oversight and enhance their contribution to promoting good governance in Albania. The initiative is designed to equip CSOs with the necessary skills, tools and networks to enhance their participation in legislative and oversight processes, thereby contributing to evidence-based policymaking and meaningful public consultations. The capacity building programme aims also to enhance to foster collaboration between CSOs, the Parliament and oversight institutions.

Objectives of the Capacity Building Programme



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The capacity building programme will provide targeted training in policy analysis, advocacy, strategic communication, and parliamentary engagement. CSOs will not only be capacitated to participate in legislative and oversight processes but will also be supported to cultivate long-term collaboration with oversight institutions, Parliament, and key stakeholders. Specifically, the programme aims to:

1. To enhance the knowledge and technical capabilities of CSOs by providing a tailored training programme focused on policy analysis, advocacy, strategic communication, and parliamentary engagement.
2. To strengthen the collaboration between CSOs, Parliament, and oversight bodies by facilitating direct engagement opportunities and fostering knowledge exchange.
3. To establish a sustainable Community of Practice to promote continuous knowledge sharing and collaboration among CSOs, supported by international mentorship and the integration of best practices.

Overview of the Programme

The capacity building programme will run from March 2025 – June 2026. It will offer a combination of theoretical learning with hands-on, practical learning through case studies, exercises, and workshops. These will allow participants to apply new skills, learn best practices, and refine their strategies for effective oversight and advocacy. Sessions will be overseen by national and international experts, ensuring the provision of high-quality learning and real-world insights into effective policy and oversight practices.

To ensure ongoing learning and collaboration, a Community of Practice (CoP) for CSOs will be established, creating a network where organisations can share knowledge, exchange experiences, and collaborate on common challenges. Peer-learning sessions will foster a culture of mutual support, and the CoP will be enriched with international mentorship to expose CSOs to best practices and successful models from other countries.

Structure of the Capacity Building Programme

Training sessions are structured into three sequential phases, with each phase carefully designed to build upon the previous one. To optimise accessibility and engagement, the programme will be organised in a hybrid format, combining both in-person and online training. This hybrid approach is intended to ensure that participants are able to benefit from face-to-face interactions while also having the flexibility to engage with content remotely. The programme covers four thematic clusters:

1. Engaging with oversight agencies and parliamentary committees
2. Strategic skills and public communication



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3. Understanding political strategies for improving accountability
 4. Effective lobbying techniques

Phase 1: *Theoretical Knowledge Training* introduces each thematic cluster through a foundational theoretical training. The sessions will provide participants with a deep understanding of parliamentary oversight structures, the functions of oversight institutions, accountability mechanisms, and the critical role of communication in influencing the legislative process.

In **Phase 2: *Best Practice and Practical Exercises***, participants will explore case studies and engage in exercises that involve drafting policy recommendations and oversight reports. This phase emphasises the practical aspects of the work, helping participants apply their newly acquired knowledge to real-world scenarios. Emphasis will be placed on how CSOs can effectively engage with oversight institutions.

Phase 3: *Practitioner-Led Review and Feedback* includes workshops led by practitioners, including parliamentary representatives and staff of oversight institutions, who will collaborate with CSOs on real-case scenarios. In these sessions, CSOs will present reports based on their fieldwork and research. Parliamentarians and independent experts will then provide feedback on these reports, enabling participants to refine their approaches and strategies.

Alongside the training schedule, CSOs will be supported to establish a dedicated Community of Practice that will serve as a platform for them to exchange and collaborate on topics of interest regarding legislative and oversight processes.

Scope of the Call

Through this call, PACEP II is seeking to identify up to 10 CSOs, which are interested to join the capacity building programme. Participation and training costs are covered by the project.

By applying to this call, CSOs acknowledge that they understand the programme is meant to be completed in full, that they will be required to commit their staff and time throughout the duration of the programme, and that they will contribute to the Community of Practice.

Eligibility Criteria

In order to be considered, interested CSOs must:

- Be registered and operating in Albania.
- Have been operational for a minimum of 2 years and a maximum of 10 years.
- Have implemented at least one budgeted initiative in the last 2 years.
- Demonstrate a track record on advocacy with a focus on transparency, public participation, and accountability in governance.



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Application Procedure

Interested CSOs must submit the documents listed below to the email address GPG-Albania@Gpgovernance.net by **midnight February 16, 2025**. Please, write “**Application for the CSO Capacity Building Programme**” in the subject of your email.

1. **Registration Certificate:** The registration certificate issued by the relevant authorities in Albania must be submitted; this document must confirm that the organisation is legally registered and operational.
2. **Description of the Organization:** A detailed description of the organisation’s vision, mission, and activities/programmes completed in the last two years, including the following details: *Geographic coverage; Number of staff and/or volunteers; Description of specific areas of work and beneficiaries; Description of trainings attended in the previous year; Description of collaborations/partnerships with other CSOs/relevant actors; A brief description of ongoing projects, including sources of funding; Contact details.*
3. **Statement of Interest and Commitment:** Through this document, interested CSOs should explain how their organisation would benefit from the training programme and confirm the organization’s pledge to complete the programme in full and be an active participant in all its sessions and related events.

Evaluation and Selection Procedure

The selection procedure will be based on the following criteria:

- Criteria A: Profile of organization based on the submitted description – max points: 50
- Criteria B: Statement of Interest and Commitment – max points: 50

Applications that do not comply with the instructions outlined above will not be considered.



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