

IRIS Network

Regional network of CSOs providers of social services



Network background

- The IRIS network is the only regional network that gathers CSO social service providers in Southeast Europe (SEE), from Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Kosovo* and Albania.
- Each of the countries has a national IRIS network, which functions within the IRIS network, an umbrella organization, which currently gathers **around 200 member organizations** that provide different types of social services to different socially vulnerable groups.
- The IRIS network was founded in 2012 and from the beginning had **significant support from the European Union and the program IPA Civil Society Facility of the European Commission.**

- In the past 10 years, the IRIS network has profiled itself as the **leading regional sector point of support, learning and association of non-profit social service providers in the community,**
- Members of the IRIS network are **vital links in social protection in 76 local communities throughout the region where they directly provide social services to 15 different social groups,** primarily those who are victims of social exclusion and marginalization.

IDC & IRIS Network history

- IRIS Networking project (2017 – 2022)
- Exchange of knowledge and resources
- Need for strategic planning and structured management

The IRIS Network Strategic plan developed with TACSO support in 2022

Vision of the IRIS Network: *The IRIS Network of 2025 is a self-sustaining regional membership organization that acts as a reliable partner and a space for networking and strengthening and advocating the interests of non-profit social service providers in the Western Balkans*

Network management structure proposal

- With the Strategic Plan, the members of the IRIS network undertake **to continuously work on the development of the internal organizational structure, procedures, communication mechanisms and cooperative relations of the network, as well as on the permanent mobilization of resources for its work**
- Network structure is:
 - **Management Board** consisting of IDC, ASB and National Coordinators representing the members in each country
 - **Secretariat** consisting of the project team
 - **Assembly** that consists of all members of the Network
 - **Working groups and teams** formed for the purpose of implementation of a specific task

Capacity building

- **Based on the needs of Iris Network** and the Strategic plan
- Strengthening the capacity and quality of work of the members
- Set of services for members (from advocacy, to licensing, to project management and financial support), making it unique in the sector at the regional level.
- As shown by the survey of the perception of the network by its members **the greatest achievement of the IRIS network is the trust and benefit for learning, growth and sustainability attributed to it by its members.** With this, the IRIS network fundamentally justified its existence and created a background for the further expansion of services for members and grounds for advocacy

Development policies

- Development policies are developed on the level of network as well as through provision of support to network members to developing policies
- Example 1: Network Strategic Plan, SOP, Rulebook, etc
- Example 2: Needs based development of documents for the purpose of licensing of social services, documents that regulate the internal work of the organization to work with target groups.
- Sharing resources from IDC to the network, from network to is members and vice versa

Rights based approach and Gender equality

- IDC policies: IDC Code of Conduct, Equal opportunities and non discrimination policy, Health and Safety policy, IDC Safeguarding children and vulnerable adults policy, etc.
- SOP will be gender mainstreamed within the current project
- Training: Human rights based approach in social services provision within new project cycle

Thank you and lets stay in touch 😊

Contact:



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