

Call for Expression of Interest for Civil Society Organisations to join the National Working Groups on Public Administration Reform

Foreign Policy Initiative BH – FPI BH, on behalf of the regional network Think for Europe Network (TEN) and within the [WeBER Project](#), invites all interested civil society organisations (CSO) from BiH to get involved in establishing and subsequent work of the National Working Groups (NWGs) for monitoring public administration reform in the Western Balkans.

National working group is a national consultative mechanism for participation of civil society in the dialogue with relevant public authorities on design and monitoring of public administration reform (PAR) processes in the Western Balkans (WB). NWGs are constituted in each of the WB countries as a part of the wider consultative mechanism for dialogue on PAR - [WeBER Platform](#)¹, established in Podgorica in November 2016.

NWGs ensure that dialogue on PAR involves all levels of civil society engagement, through participation of locally based CSO which operate both at national and local level.

Membership in NWGs is open to all interested CSO. If you wish your organisation to become a member, please send us, on behalf of your organization, an Expression of Interest inclusive of brief description of the previous experiences of the organisation in the PAR area (basic experience in PAR). If the organisation has not been active yet in this area, it is sufficient to state your motives to start working in the PAR area.

In order to have a complete application, apart from the Expression of Interest, we kindly ask you to fulfil [the questionnaire on assessment of needs of the CSO for capacity building in PAR area](#). The questionnaire is available at: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WeBER_NWG_BH_Questionnaire. Applications should be sent no later than the 9th of March, at the following e-mail address: ana@vpi.ba

Why join the NWGs?

Distinct nature of the WeBER Platform and its NWGs is embodied in its comprehensive approach that focuses on all levels of governance and building multi-level partnerships among CSO and increasing their influence for PAR monitoring accordingly. NWGs, specifically:

- Create opportunities for local CSO with little prior experience in the area of PAR to start building their portfolio in this area, and are thus encouraged to propose project ideas and [apply for small grants to monitor local administrations' reform](#);

¹ The WeBER Platform is a regional consultation platform, led by CSO in the Western Balkans (WB), for maintaining dialogue with public authorities in WB countries on the PAR process - the process that is ongoing in all WB countries simultaneously. For more info on the WeBER Platform visit the website: <http://www.par-monitor.org/pages/purpose>

- Involve locally based CSO that are genuinely interested and/or active in the monitoring of the work of local (municipal or sub-national) administrations;
- Create opportunities for CSOs' capacity-building through tailor-made trainings and workshops, and potential support for the application of PAR Monitor Methodology² at the national and local level.

Driving idea behind the establishment of NWGs is to gather as many CSO as possible and to create wide but credible domestic mechanism that will represent the views and standpoints of the civil society in dialogue with public authorities in PAR monitoring process. NWGs derive from the logic and structure of the WeBER Platform, that provides a common ground for involvement of CSO in PAR monitoring and dialogue at regional and national level. Each national consortium of the Platform constitutes NWG for respective country, taking into consideration specificities of civil society environment in relation to availability of and the need for evidence-based research and advocacy on PAR. CSOs that lead and coordinate the NWG (called also the "national consortium"), that are at the same time members of the Platform regionally, are:

- Foreign Policy Initiative BH – FPI BH (NWG Coordinator in BiH and partner on WeBER Project),
- Transparency International BiH – TI BiH,
- The Center for Investigative Reporting - CIN

The Platform members in BiH, as well as Platform members in remaining countries³, were selected through the Open Call for the Expression of Interest.

For more information on functioning, structure and benefits of the membership in National Working Groups on Public Administration Reform, please see the Draft Concept Note on National Working Groups on PAR⁴ attached as Annex of this Call for Expression of Interest.

² PAR Monitor Methodology is the methodology for independent PAR monitoring by civil society in the WB. PAR Monitor methodology is based on the selection SIGMA principles that are best fitted to be monitored by the civil society, and the development of own quantitative and qualitative indicators for measurement. Ultimately, application of the PAR Monitor methodology not only monitors the progress in PAR in each WB country, but allows for regional benchmarking of countries through regional PAR Scoreboard. For more information please visit: <http://www.par-monitor.org/pages/par-monitor-methodology>.

³ For all WeBER Platform members, please visit: <http://www.par-monitor.org/pages/members>.

⁴ The Concept Note on National Working Groups on PAR was developed as a part of the three-year WeBER project (Western Balkans Enabling Project for Civil Society Monitoring of Public Administration Reform - WeBER), funded by the European Union and co-financed by the Kingdom of the Netherlands. Visit WeBER website: <http://www.par-monitor.org>

The overall goal of the WeBER Project, financed by the European Union and co-financed by the Kingdom of the Netherlands, is to increase the relevance, participation and capacity of civil society organisations and media in the Western Balkans to advocate for and influence the design and implementation of public administration reform (PAR). For additional information about the project visit the WeBER project website <http://www.par-monitor.org>.