

Partners Albania opens the applications for “NPO Academy 2017 - 2018”

NPO Academy will offer education and development opportunities through contemporary learning approaches and multidimensional experience exchange to the 5th group of NPO participants across the country.

During the last three years, 57 NPO executives benefited knowledge and skills enhancement, cooperation, networking and partnership opportunities with similar organizations in country and abroad. Through a follow-up coaching and mentoring program, participating NPOs will be guided towards effective implementation of the knowledge and skills acquired in the Academy.

General Overview

Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in Albania operate in a very dynamic environment and play a significant role in country development through their diverse competencies and operation areas.

Over the last two decades, non-profit sector in Albania has grown bigger (*only in 2016, are registered 307 new CSOs - 221 associations; 60 centers and 26 foundations*); also the legal and fiscal framework for the non-profit sector is subject to frequent changes and amendments which have affected the sustainability and activity of the sector, as well as its relations with the state. The sector's need to know and understand this legal framework remains a priority in order to enable its efficient activity.

Participation and involvement of CSOs in decision making at central and local level is a key factor to ensure laws, policies and strategies respond to the needs and priorities of citizens. The sector involvement and presence on public issues has been more and more visible, but there is still room for improvement and coordinated actions for an effective participation of CSOs in decision-making and policy-making, in line with international standards and best practices.

The role of CSOs as promoters of change depends on their maturity, competence, preparedness and capacity to successfully cooperate with country strategic partners. Despite the experience gained, in order to attain significant results, CSOs still need development programs to improve skills related to organizational development and management, sustainability and inclusion in participatory processes.

NPO Academy:

- Serves as a space for non-formal education to enhance skills and develop competences of NPO executives;
- Increase the professionalism of participants through a unique curriculum, learning methodology and diverse professional expertise;
- Creates generations of professional and committed NPO executives who will become change actors to contribute in the development of Albanian society.

The NPO Academy will be implemented on **September 2017 to April 2018** consisting on:

- series of lectures (10 modules will be introduced/ delivered through 2 sessions/month)
- preparation and presentation of various assignments regarding development of new / improved internal policies and procedures, financial formats, proposal formats and fundraising plans, communication tools etc.
- participation in a study visit in Slovakia - introduced with the work of Slovakian organizations, NPOs-State cooperation models, innovative actions in fighting corruption, participatory processes, crowd sourcing, fundraising, etc.

NPO Academy is implemented by Partners Albania in in cooperation with Partners for Democratic Change Slovakia (PDCS) in the framework of the project: “Pillars of civil society: More effective cooperation between civil and state sector in Albania”, financially supported by Slovak Aid - Official Development Assistance of the Slovak Republic.

Application

The Academy is open to executives of Albanian NPOs in the position of the Director, Program Manager and Chairpersons of the Board/Assembly who aim the enhancement of capacities and their professional development in the sector, to build effective organizations serving the public and interest groups.

Interested candidates for the year 2017 – 2018 are invited to apply by completing the [Application form](#).

Deadline for the submission of applications is **July 10, 2017**, 17:00 hrs.

Criteria and Selection Process!

The Academy will enable participation of sector representatives with a wide geographical distribution and diverse sub-sector representation.

17 applicants will be selected to attend the Academy 2017.

A part of the program is planned to be in English language. Academy literature, consultation of the case studies and participation in the study visit, will require a good proficiency of English language.

Criteria

Candidates will be selected based on:

- Motivation to attend the Academy;
- Relationship between individual professional growth and development of the organization they manage;
- Commitment to attend the entire program and implement all the required activities;
- Proficiency of English language.

Process

All interested candidates should complete and submit the Application Form no later than **July 10, 2017**.

Selected candidates will be notified by July 20, 2017.

Only selected applicants will be contacted. Selected candidates will be tested on their English language proficiency (phone interview), prior to the confirmation of participation in the Academy.

Program

Period	Sessions
September	1. Academy opening - Civil society sector trends of development and NPO legal framework.
October	2. Organizational development and governance, human resources management and internal procedures. 3. Financial management: Budgeting and accounting; Reporting to state authorities.
November	4. Ensuring public support and working with the private sector. Fundraising and philanthropy. 5. Ensuring financial support through grants. Proposal writing and project management, EU grants.
December	6. Strategic communication for NPOs.
January	7. Strategic planning. 8. Participatory governance.
February	9. Mobilization of constituencies. Networking and coalition building. 10. Advocacy and lobbying.
March	* Study visit in Slovakia * Closing Conference and Graduation ceremony.

If you require additional information, please contact:
Mrs. Jonida Alite, Training Director at jalite@partnersalbania.org

Note: ACADEMY ADMISSIONS NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY
In selecting the attendees, Partners Albania will be guided by the principle of non-discrimination on the basis of gender, religion, ethnicity or sexual orientation.