USAID’S CIVIC ENGAGEMENT PROJECT (CEP), THAT BEGAN ITS ACTIVITY IN AUGUST 2016, STRENGTHENS THE CONSTRUCTIVE ENGAGEMENT BY CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS (CSOS) ON POLICIES AND ISSUES OF PUBLIC CONCERN, AND INCREASES AND SUSTAINS YOUTH INVOLVEMENT IN PUBLIC LIFE IN MACEDONIA.

CEP’S OVERALL GOAL IS THE ENHANCED CAPACITY OF CSOS AND YOUTH GROUPS TO ADVANCE PUBLIC POLICIES, IMPROVE PUBLIC SERVICES, PROMOTE GOOD GOVERNANCE, AND CONTRIBUTE TO IMPROVING THE STANDARD OF LIVING IN MACEDONIA.

CEP SUPPORTS CSOS THAT FOCUS ON THE FOLLOWING KEY AREAS:
- Rule of law
- Anti-corruption
- Human rights
- Economic growth
- Business enabling environment and
- Monitoring and oversight of institutions

Under Component Two, CEP provides grant and capacity development support to CSOs on:
- Expanding and strengthening their constituencies, and engaging these constituencies in actions that address citizens’ primary concerns;
- Strengthening their management practices to become sustainable CSOs;
- Cooperating with the media, private sector, academia, and public institutions on issues of shared interest; and
- Drawing increased knowledge and capacity, as well as widened support for CSO initiatives, by networking with regional, European and international networks.

CEP is a five-year project funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) mission in Macedonia. CEP is implemented by East West Management Institute in partnership with the Foundation for Internet and Society “Metamorphosis”, the Association for Democratic Initiatives (ADI), the Foundation for Open Society in Macedonia (FOSM) and the National Youth Council of Macedonia.

KEY COMPONENT TWO ACTIVITIES:
- Award Strategic Support Grants;
- Award Rapid Response Grants;
- Provide capacity development assistance to all CEP grantees, including on constituency management and domestic giving;
- Provide CEP grantees with tools for citizen engagement;
- Support initiatives to improve CSOs’ public image.

KEY EXPECTED OUTPUTS:
- Up to 21 CEP-supported CSOs that lead successful civic engagement initiatives in their priority areas;
- At least 10 important, unanticipated policy developments addressed by CEP-supported CSOs;
- CEP grantees’ organizational and advocacy capacity enhanced and their ability to raise funds from multiple sources increased;
- CEP grantees develop wide and meaningful cooperation with other CSOs, the media, private sector, academic and public institutions to advance the public’s wellbeing.

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