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# **ANNUAL REPORT**



**Social  
Contract  
Institute**

This report covers SCI's activity from January 1 to December 31, 2019. It was prepared by SCI staff and was reviewed and approved by SCI Board.

For questions and more information about SCI's work, please, contact us at:

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## Message from the Board Chair



Dear SCI partners, supporters and friends,

The year we left behind was a year of great developments and challenges for Albania, our region, and the world. The country's political life was shaken by strong clashes, while a profound justice system reform took important steps towards achieving results. The earthquakes of September 21 and November 26, 2019, led to the loss of lives of 51 fellow citizens, left thousands homeless, and were followed by a massive wave of solidarity by Albanians in the country and abroad helping those that were most affected by the earthquake. Efforts to deepen cooperation among Western Balkan countries continues, as Albania's and Northern Macedonia's aspirations to open EU membership negotiations, as well as the need for Kosovo citizens to move visa-free to the Schengen area faced the skepticism of some European Union member states. Democracy continued to lose ground in many countries around the world, including some European Union member states, while climate change continued to worsen and dominated international public debates. In this political, economic, and social context, there is a growing need for broad civic engagement and for an

active and effective role of civil society in addressing the challenges and benefiting from the opportunities for positive change that these challenges create.

With this conviction and its dedication to its mission as a civil society organization, the Social Contract Institute (SCI) launched in 2019 a series of important initiatives that contribute to strengthen the rule of law, expand civic participation in decision-making, and enhance gender mainstreaming in the media. During this year, SCI significantly expanded the network of partner organizations at home and abroad, successfully raised the needed funding for the implementation of its initiatives, and took the first steps in providing services and technical assistance to other civil society organizations.

We are pleased to present you here the Annual Report for 2019 that will provide you with detailed information on all SCI initiatives during this successful year for the Institute.

Warm greetings,

Andrea Lako

# Mission and Values

SCI contributes to strengthen democratic practices and institutions through civic engagement, participation in the formulation and implementation of national and local policies, and promotion of regional cooperation for a sustainable development, based on justice and equal opportunities.

SCI fulfills this aim through research, surveys, public information and education, exchange of experience and information, partnerships and networking, grant-making, capacity development for public, private, and non-profit institutions, and advocacy.

To achieve its purpose, SCI applies methodologies that ensure professionalism and sustainability of its interventions and undertakes programs and projects at the local, national, and international level, taking into consideration also the following:

SCI works to increase citizens' participation in the debate and decision-making on local and national public policies, to increase the effectiveness of citizens' participation in decision-making and citizen participation in the formulation of public policies by conveying community needs and ideas.

SCI believes in and is led by common values shared by its Board and Staff.

## SCI's activity prioritizes:

- 1 **Civic Engagement**
- 2 **Formulation and Implementation of National and Local Policies**
- 3 **Regional Cooperation**

We:

- Believe in SCI's mission;
- Promote progressive practices, programs, and policies;
- Are committed to gender equality and social inclusion;
- Respect and value people engaged in the organization;
- Are professionals in our work;
- Are open to diversity of ideas, positions, and collaborators;
- Pay special attention to youth, women, and girls engagement;
- Treat people with fairness and dignity;
- Solidarize with citizens and people in need;
- Are creative in our activity;
- Are cooperative, without asking for protagonism;
- Promote voluntarism.

# Rule of Law and Good Governance Program

## Project

Improved Awarding and Implementation of Alternative Sentences

## Partners

None

## Donor

Save the Children and CILSP with EU funds

## Budget

23,800 Euro

## Timeframe

April 1, 2018 – April 30, 2019

In March 2019, it was accomplished Improved Awarding and Implementation of Alternative Sentences project, which was funded by the Civic Engagement for a Functional Judicial System and Justice Approach in Albania program, an EU-funded program, implemented by Save The Children and CILPS. Through this project, SCI contributed in: (i) improvement of the rate and quality of alternative sentences awarded by the courts and monitored by Probation Services (PbS) offices in Tropoja, Dibra, Kruja (in Northern Albania), and Përmet, Pogradec, Saranda (in Southern Albania) and beyond; and (ii) enhancement opportunities for first-time and low risk offenders to have their rights respected and to reintegrate in society and live a life away from crime, after completing the sentence. Based on: reviewing the legal

framework for alternative sentences; assessment findings by SCI experts of alternative sentences given during 2016 by the courts in the areas where the project was focused; the reports of the Probation Service are submitted to the prosecution for individual cases of offenders serving alternative sentences; finding interviews with key actors; and finding focus groups with offenders suffering or having completed alternative sentences, SCI prepared the Alternative Sentences Report. This report includes: quantitative data on the percentage of alternative sentences given by the courts in the areas where the project was focused compared to the total number of criminal cases handled by these courts in 2016; analysis of best practices and concerns regarding the application of alternative sentences; and recommendations for improving the quantity and quality of court decisions that provide alternative sentences, as well as the implementation of these sentences. In April 2019, SCI presented the findings of the report to a roundtable with representatives of the Albanian justice system. The participants' suggestions were reflected in the final report. This project highlighted some very important issues regarding the law on the Probation Service and generated some new ideas on how civil society can further contribute to this area.

## Project

Community Governance: challenges to the functioning of citizens participation mechanisms in Korça district

## Partners

Women in Development Association (WiDA), Korça

## Donor

LevizAlbania, with funding by the Swiss Cooperation Office

## Budget

40,000 CHF

## Timeframe

August 1, 2018 – April 30, 2019

In April 2019, SCI started the implementation of the project Community Governance: challenges to the functioning of citizens participation mechanisms in Korça district. During this project, SCI identified the potential Change Agents in the six municipalities of Korça region and trained them. SCI signed a memorandum of understanding with the Korça Regional Council to facilitate the communication of Change Agents with the county structures and to ensure the sustainability of the project. SCI also set up the platform <http://agjentetendryryshimit.com/>, which shows the complete map of the Change Agents in the six municipalities of Korça region. Change Agents are active citizens who serve as a focal point in the communities where they live, to convey the problems and suggestions of citizens to local government institutions. They work with these institutions to address the problems of the citizens, thanks to a functional network of local actors who effectively participate in the mechanisms of community governance in the Korça region.

### QARKU KORÇË

Qarku i Korçës është një nga 12 qarqet në Shqipëri dhe ka një sipërfaqje prej 3711 km<sup>2</sup>. Qarku i Korçës i përfshin rrethin e Devollit, rrethin e Kolonjës, rrethin e Korçës dhe rrethin e Pogradecit. Qendra e Qarkut të Korçës ndodhet në qytetin e Korçës. Qarku i Korçës kufizohet në verilindje dhe në lindje me Maqedoninë, në jug me Greqinë, në jugperëndim me Qarkun e Gjirokastrës, në perëndim me Qarkun e Beratit dhe në veriperëndim me Qarkun e Elbasanit. Qarku i Korçës ka një popullsi prej 258 100 banorë.



KY ESHTE NJE PROJEKT I FINANCIUAR NGA:



## Project

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Alternative Sentences-Alternative for a Better Life

## Partners

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None

## Donor

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Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Albania

## Budget

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98,600 Euro

## Timeframe

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September 1, 2019- February 28, 2021

In September 2019, SCI started the implementation of the project Alternative Sentences - Alternatives for a Better Life, funded by MATRA - Rule of Law, program of the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Albania. SCI built the work on this project on the achievements of the project Improved Awarding and Implementation of Alternative Sentences, through which SCI identified some concerns regarding the implementation of the existing legal framework of the Probation Service in Albania. The project aims to improve the implementation and enforcement of alternative sentences in Albania by drafting a practical manual for the implementation of the Probation Service law and training judges and prosecutors (in cooperation with the School of Magistrates), lawyers (in cooperation with the School of Advocacy), and Probation Service employees (in collaboration with the Probation Service Directorate). SCI will also work to increase the capacity of local government representatives, NGOs, police officers, etc., by organizing seminars with them in each district. SCI will prepare and provide all these actors with a reference book (manual) for the implementation of the law on the Probation Service, and will provide them with the knowledge and skills to effectively implement this legal framework.



# Civic Engagement Program

## Project

Balkan Girl Power

## Partners

ArtPolis from Kosova, National Youth Council of Macedonia (NYCM), IAct NGO from Montenegro, and Organization for the Promotion of Activism (OPA) from Serbia

## Donor

The Western Balkan Fund

## Budget

12,000 Euro

## Timeframe

May 1, 2018 – February 28, 2019

In February 2019, SCI organized at the Center for Openness and Dialogue (COD) in Tirana the photo exhibition Balkan Girl Power, which concluded the activities of the regional initiative undertaken by five partner organizations: SCI in Albania; National Youth Council of Northern Macedonia (NYCM); iACT in Montenegro; Organization for the Promotion of Activism (OPA) in Serbia; and Artpolis Center - Art and Community from Kosovo. The exhibition was attended by more than 150 invited people and remained open until the end of February 2019. The exhibition closed with the award ceremony for the best photos. After ceremony the girls participating in the exhibition attended a master class with the well-known Albanian-British artist Lala Meredith Vula, who served as artistic director of the entire project. SCI produced 500 calendars for 2019 with the best photos from the participating girls. SCI and other project partners distributed these calendars to the respective countries.



## Project

Talking about Men and Women

## Partners

None

## Donor

East-West Management Institute (EWMI)

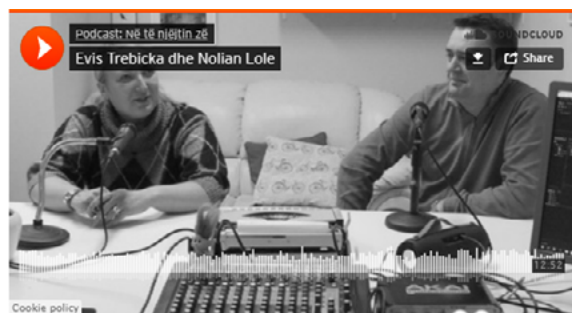
## Budget

32,705 USD

## Timeframe

July 2019- February 2020

SCI produced 10 podcasts that were distributed through radio and online platforms in a series entitled **Talking about Men and Women** focusing on relationships between men and women in Albania, based on real life stories. They tell stories of collaboration between men and women in professional and personal life as good examples to follow in the pursuit of a fairer and more equal society. These podcast series also address hidden gender stereotypes about the concept of family and the relationship between professional and personal life. The project was funded by EWMI with funding from the British Embassy in Albania.



## Project

Young Guides

## Partners

None

## Donor

The Agency for Supporting Civil Society (AMSHC)

## Budget

2.400.000 ALL

## Timeframe

September 15, 2019- May 15, 2020

In September 2019, SCI started the implementation of the project Young Guides, in 7 municipalities of Gjirokastra region. The project will contribute to the enrichment of tourist resources of Gjirokastra through the engagement of young people. SCI selected 25 young men and women, who will be trained to serve as volunteer tourist guides (Young Guides) in the municipalities or villages where they live. During the period October - December 2019, SCI prepared an inventory of tourist resources of Gjirokastra region and, based on these materials, prepared two new tourist itineraries - destinations around the archeological center of Antigone and tourist attractions around the village of Peshtan. SCI will promote Young Guides by disseminating their information in all hotels, restaurants and other tourist spots in Gjirokastra region.



## Project

US

## Partners

None

## Donor

GIZ Albania

## Budget

5.237.500 ALL

## Timeframe

September 30, 2019- September 1, 2020

SCI will contribute to create a more favorable environment for youth initiatives in Albania, especially youth initiatives belonging to communities in need or marginalized, through the power of positive models and youth-led initiatives. The project will be implemented in the regions of Tirana, Korca, Gjirokastra, Fier and Durres. SCI will work to equip young people with practical skills that help them live an independent life. SCI will produce 10 video messages from representatives of communities in need or marginalized - poor, returnees, victims of violence, LGBTI people, etc. - as a way to motivate young people by telling success stories from people of the same community.



# Sustainable Development Program

## Project

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New Green

## Partners

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None

## Donor

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GIZ Albania

## Budget

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5.709.100 ALL

## Timeframe

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November 1, 2019- July 30, 2020

SCI will implement New Green project in Tirana, Shijak and Lushnje. This project will contribute to increase the involvement of young people in the agricultural sector by equipping them with the skills you need to enter the labor market in agriculture. The 50 young men and women selected by SCI will gain a range of skills and knowledge that can help them find employment or self-employment. SCI will also provide training for these young men and women on how to start a new business in agriculture. 20 of them will have a one-month internship with agricultural businesses, an opportunity to see up close how a business in agriculture works, as well as to get practical advice on how to get involved in the agricultural business as employees or start a business.

## Other Activities



During several months, SCI provided technical assistance to the Psycho-Social Center “Vatra” based in Vlora in organizing the celebration of the 20th anniversary of the organization. This activity took place on November 20, 2019 with the participation of high level representatives from central and local government institutions, representatives

of foreign embassies, local NGOs, national and international, etc.

SCI brought the Balkan Girl Power exhibition to Seanema Film Festival in Ulcinj, Montenegro during September 18-22 2019.

In October 2019, SCI contributed to the organization of KazanFest in Këlcyrë, Gjirokastra region, an activity led by the ISO Foundation, renowned artist Boiken Lako and agrotourism Ferma Albanik. During the two days, visitors to this musical and cultural festival enjoyed traditional organic food products of Këlcyra and Përmet and attended concerts by modern music groups from Tirana and folk music groups from Përmet. This festival also served to promote the areas around Këlcyrë as a tourist destination.



In April 2019, the Executive Director of SCI, Mrs. Olda Ceta helped the capacity building of the municipalities of Përmet and Tepelena as part of the Transparency Program at the Local Government, implemented by ANTTARC.

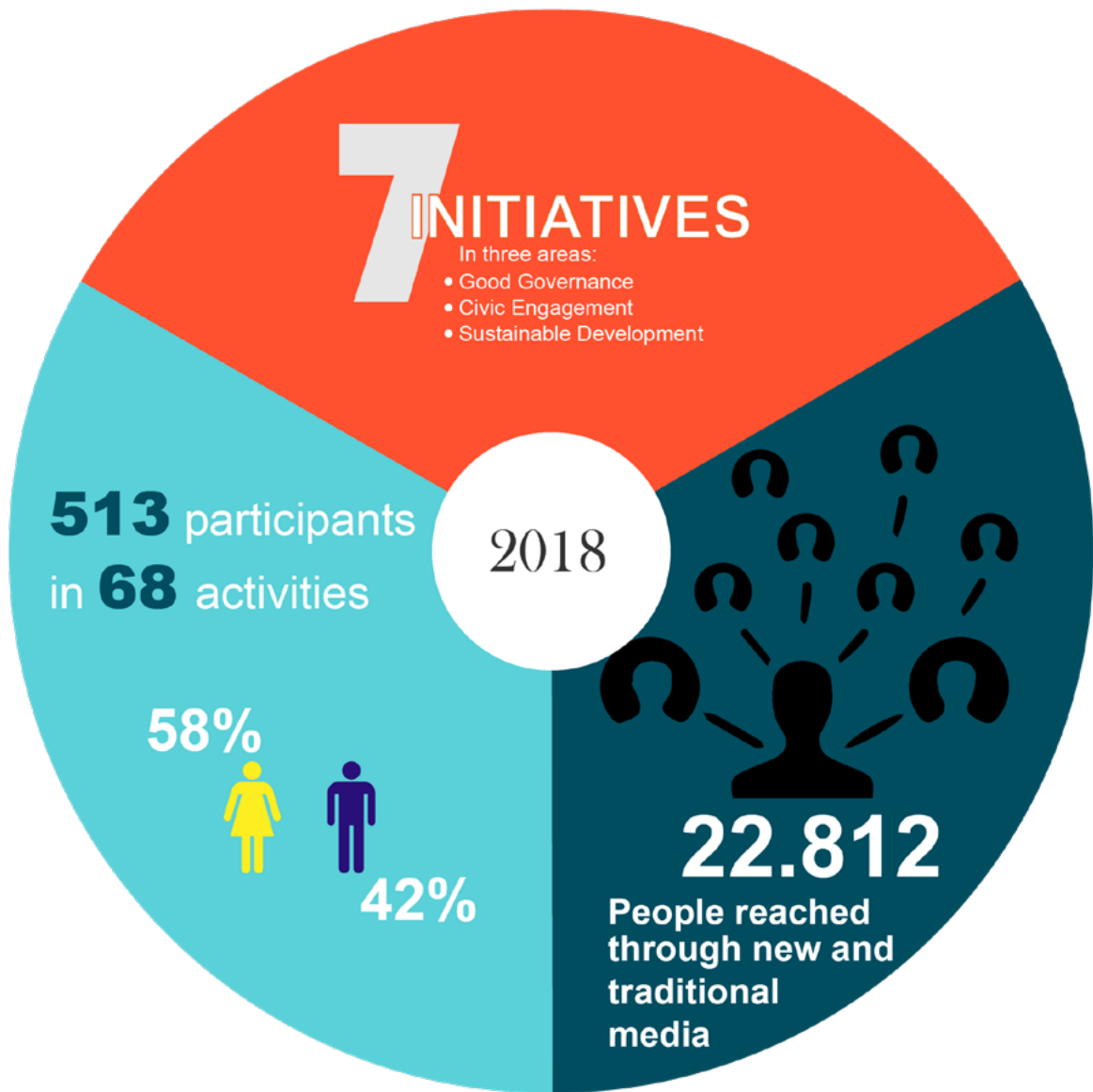
# Organizational Development

In October 2019, SCI was certified by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) mission in Albania to participate in the Assistance Program for Action for Community Development Center (ACDC) by USAID / Albania and implemented by ANTTARC. During 2019, ACDC experts assisted SCI in drafting the first Strategic Plan, as well as several

other documents for the organization's management.

During 2019, the Project Coordinator of SCI, Mrs. Dea Miloti, participated in NGO's Academy Program organized by Partners Albania. This program helps to increase the skills and professional development of the leaders of Albanian NGOs to create effective organizations that serve the public and stakeholders.



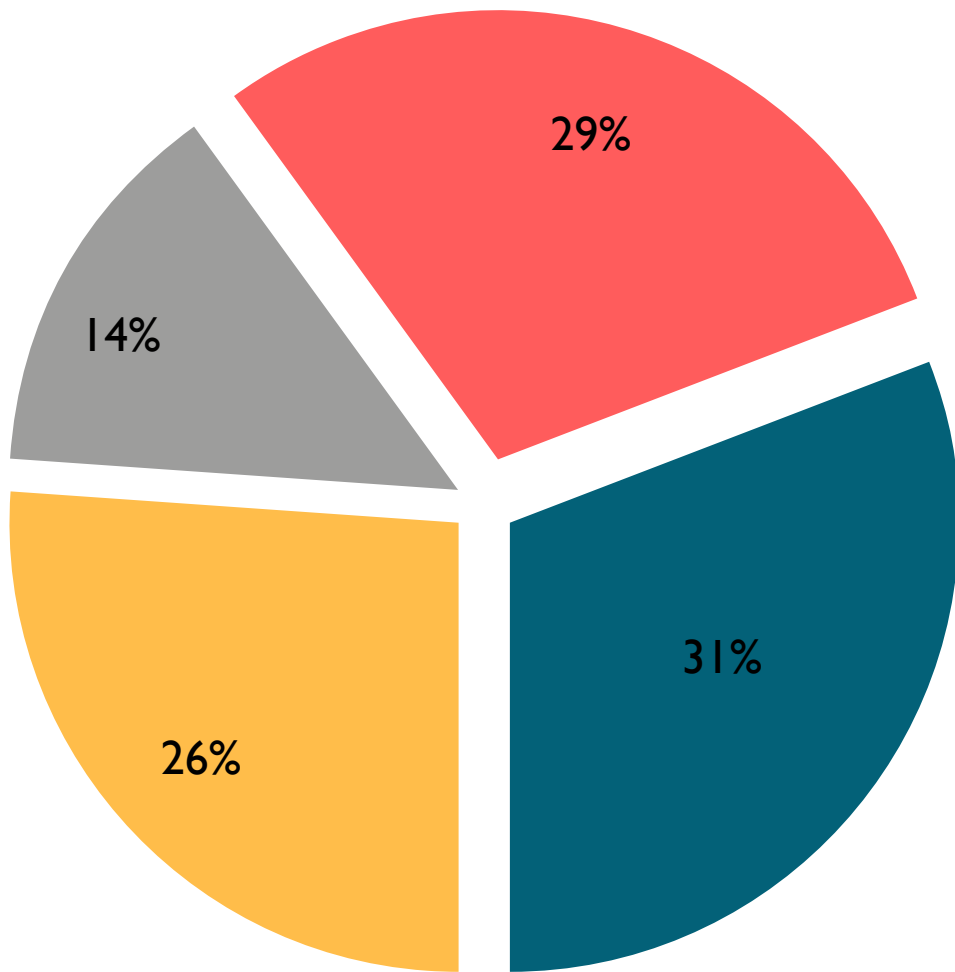


SCI impact during 2019

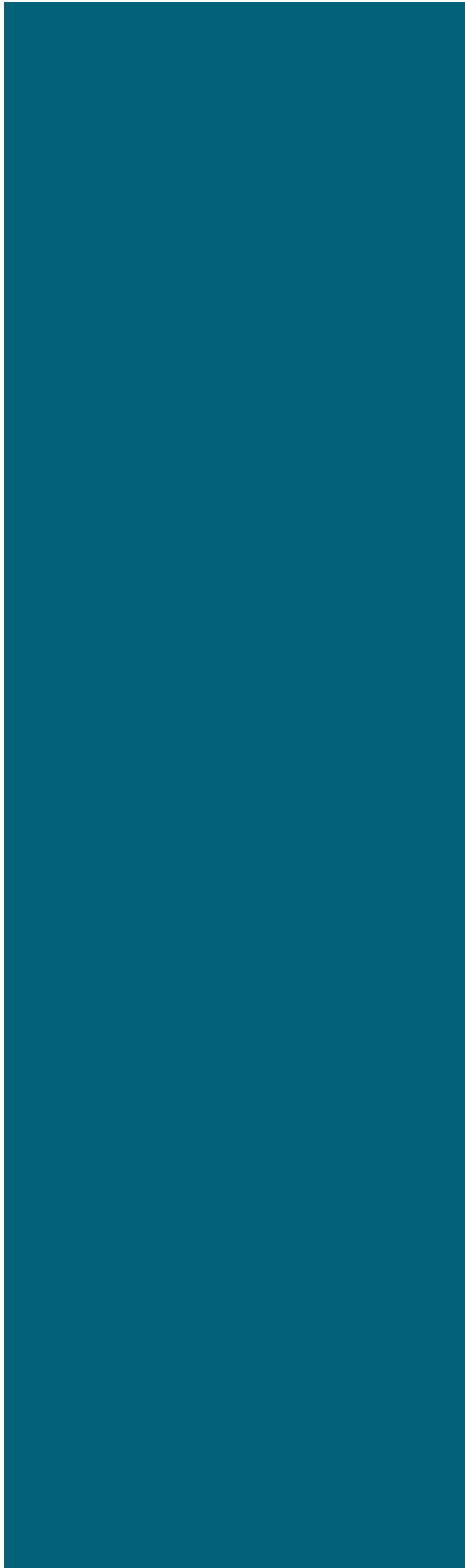


# Financial Data

Budget for 2019  
**340,000 USD**



- ▶ Civic Engagement
- ▶ Sustainable Development
- ▶ Rule of Law
- ▶ Non-Project activities



# ANNUAL REPORT 2019



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