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18**

# **Annual Report**



**Social  
Contract  
Institute**

This report covers Social Contract Institute's (SCI) activity from January 1 to December 31, 2018. 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 an important year for our organization. During this year, the Social Contract

Institute took firm steps towards shaping its role as an active civil society actor, expanded the range of initiatives it undertook, expanded the geographical reach of its activity, and invested intensely in its organizational strengthening.

In 2018, SCI launched several important initiatives that contributed to expanding citizens' opportunities to participate in governance and decision-making at the local government level. Through these efforts, SCI increasingly focused on supporting citizens that can serve as actors of change in their communities, assisted local government bodies to increase transparency, paid special attention to the needs and perspectives of women and girls, and innovatively made use of the opportunities that information communication technology offers. As part of its contribution to strengthen the rule of law, the Institute assessed alternative sentences in several judicial districts as a first step to invest in enhancing the frequency and enforcement quality of alternative sentences. This year SCI also launched

its first regional initiative. SCI, in collaboration with four In cooperation with four partner organizations from Kosovo, Montenegro, Northern Macedonia and Serbia, SCI supported 75 girls from the five Western Balkan countries as part of the Balkan Girl Power initiative, using the art of photography as a way to engage girls in envisioning the future of the region within the European Union. These interesting and valuable activities and the expansion of SCI's work were made possible due to: the dedicated work of SCI staff and experts; citizens' active participation in SCI initiatives; cooperation with partner organizations and responsible public institutions on issues that SCI initiatives address; and thanks to the generous support by Albanian agencies and international programs that funded the work of the Institute.

On behalf of SCI, I heartily thank all of these contributors and donors and invite you to browse this Annual Report, a summary of the key activities that SCI successfully accomplished this year.

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.

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.

## SCI's activity prioritizes:

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

# Rule of Law and Good Governance Program

## Project

AIS Network, E-Democracy (For an Active and Inclusive Society -Digital Citizenship)

## Consortium

Woman in Development” Korçë lead organization; SCI and Eye of New Media, Gjiro-kastër, partners

## Donor

Institute for Democracy and Mediation (IDM) - CIVILISC Program, funded by EU

## Budget

25,910 Euro (for the three implementing partners) - 8,600 Euro for SCI

## Timeframe

February 1 – July 30, 2018

On February 1, 2018, SCI began implementing the project AIS Network, E-Democracy (For an Active and Inclusive Society-digital Citizenship) together with *Woman in Development Association (WiDA)*, Korçë, and *Eye of New Media Association (ENMA)*, Gjiro-kastër. The project worked to improve the quality of life for citizens in the municipalities of Devoll, Tepelenë, and Libohova, by providing them with the opportunity to participate in the policymaking process on issues related to municipal service delivery. SCI and its partners established two *Local Coalitions*, respectively in Libohova and Tepelena, with the participation of active community members, following the



example of the Devolli Local Coalition that was already established by WiDA. SCI, WiDA, and ENMA: conducted an assessment of municipal services in Tepelena and Libohova using Community-Based Scorecards; monitored the implementation of the municipal budget in the three municipalities; and shared the assessment and monitoring results through open forums that took place in each municipality with the participation of local government institutions, members of local coalitions, and active citizens. SCI, WiDA, and ENMA introduced also an interactive online platform ([www.e-demokracia.al](http://www.e-demokracia.al)) that serves citizens of the three municipalities. The platform offers information on municipal services and serves as medium for citizens to raise their concerns and provide suggestions related to municipal services. Local Coalition members bring citizens' concerns reported through the platform to municipal officials and follow up with them to ensure that citizens' concerns are addressed. Upon project's completion, the members of Local Coalitions took over the administration of the platform, guaranteeing its sustainability.

## Project

For Open and Citizen-Friendly Municipalities

## Partners

None

## Donor

ACTION SEE - Accountability, Technology, and Institutional Openness Network in SEE, funded by the European Union

## Budget

6,843 Euro

## Timeframe

April 1 – August 31, 2018

On April 1, 2018, SCI began to implement the project For Open and Citizen-Friendly Municipalities. Project activities took place over five months focusing on the municipalities of Fushe-Arrez, Kurbin, Shijak, Rrogozhina, and Maliq, as these municipalities had not yet developed their Transparency Program. SCI assisted the five municipalities to establish the Transparency Program, as required by law. SCI worked with the respective municipalities to: (i) conduct the analysis of the Municipal Requests and Complaints Registers; (ii) conduct the analysis of the position of the Municipal Information Coordinator and its scope of work in each municipality; and (iii) carry out an awareness raising campaign



targeting citizens living in the respective municipality educating them about their right to access municipal information and services.

Upon project's completion, two municipalities finalized and updated their Transparency Programs; three municipalities began to draft their Transparency Program. The five municipalities assisted by SCI: have established the Municipal Requests and Complaints Registers; municipal staff are well informed of their legal obligations to respond to citizens' requests; and have developed a well elaborated scope of work for the position of the Municipal Information Coordinator. At the same time, due to SCI's efforts, citizens, business groups, and other local actors in each municipality have a better understanding of their rights to access information related to the municipality and of the mechanisms that they can use to request information and/or services. In the context of this project, SCI's Program Director, Olda Ceta, participated in a study visit to Cardiff (Wales) and Edinburgh (Scotland) organized for the representatives of the organizations who had implemented successful projects in the framework of ACTION SEE program. During the two visits, participants learned about effective models for civic inclusion and participatory democracy processes.

## 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

On April 1, 2018, SCI began to implement the project Improved Awarding and Implementation of Alternative Sentences, a one-year project funded by Monitoring the Judicial System Sub-grants Program, implemented by Save the Children and CILSP with EU funds. Through this project, SCI contributed to: (i) improve 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) enhance opportunities for first-time and low risk offenders to have their rights respected and to reintegrate in society and conduct a life away from crime, once they complete their sentence. To implement the project, SCI engaged the renowned legal expert, Ms. Vjollca Meçaj, and a team of graduate students of the Law Faculty, University of Tirana.



The SCI team: signed a Memorandum of Cooperation with the Probation Services, with prior approval by the Ministry of Justice; provided training to the graduate law students that served as junior experts for the project; prepared the *Monitoring Protocol* to assess the court decision mandating alternative sentences, and the *interview questionnaire* for the interviews with judges in the respective courts; met with the Head Judges and Prosecutors in the respective courts to present the project's goal, approach, and activities, and ensured their cooperation; made copies of court decisions mandating alternative services and assessed them based on the Monitoring Protocol; and began organizing focus groups with offenders that served to highlight the offenders' experience while carrying out these sentences, and to get their feedback on ways to improve the implementation of these sentences so that they can best serve to pave the way for the offenders' reintegration in the society and in a life away from crime.

# Civic Engagement Program

## Project

Improving the quality of life of poor and unemployed women and their contribution in the family and in the community

## Partners

None

## Donor

Albanian Agency for the Support of CSOs (AMSHC)

## Budget

2,700,000 ALL

## Timeframe

May 1, 2017 – January 31, 2018

On January 31, 2018, SCI finalized the implementation of the project Improving the quality of life of poor and unemployed women and their contribution in the family and in the community. The project was funded by the Albanian Agency for the Support of CSOs (AMSHC) and it contributed to: (i) equip women and girls with knowledge and skills that enable them to exercise their rights; and (ii) improve access to health services and legal aid for women and girls in need. The project worked with poor and unemployed women and girls, municipal institutions, and CSOs in seven municipalities of Gjirokastra district. SCI: (i) produced two educational brochures



with useful information on women's legal right related to marriage and key information on women's health issues; (ii) held 17 educational workshops on legal rights and women's health issues with the participation of 146 women and girls; (iii) organized two training workshops with 36 local officials that address concerns of poor and unemployed women and girls in Gjirokastra district; (iv) produced four podcasts with useful information on women's legal right related to marriage and key information on women's health issues; and (v) held the *Roundtable on Supporting Poor and Unemployed Women* with the participation of members of the Parliament that represent Gjirokastra district, municipal officials from seven municipalities, and CSOs from the district. As a follow up to the project, SCI provided support to several poor and unemployed women that participated project activities, and helped them to address specific concerns.

## Project

Balkan Girl Power

## Partners

ArtPolis from Kosovo, 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

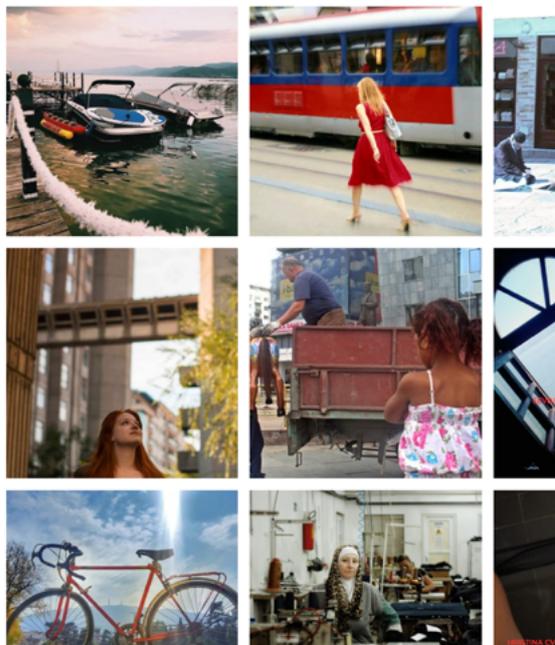
## Budget

12,000 Euro

## Timeframe

May 1, 2018 – February 28, 2019

In May 2018, SCI began implementing the Balkan Girl Power (BGP) project, an initiative led by SCI in cooperation with four other CSOs from the Western Balkans. The project was funded by the Western Balkans Fund (WBF), a fund established by the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of six Western Balkans countries. The BGP project provided opportunities for girls from Albania, Macedonia, Kosovo, Serbia, and Montenegro to get to know each other and develop through photography, a shared vision of Western Balkans societies where women and girls play an equally active role with man and boys in progress towards EU integration. During 2018, SCI and its partners: competitively selected 15 – 20 girls,



aged 16 – 25 years old, in each country that participated in BGP activities; engaged local artists and experts that provided training to the participating girls in each country on photography and on their country's progress on EU integration; as well as mentored the girls as they began taking pictures; established and facilitated discussions on the BGP Facebook group and an additional Facebook BGP Macedonia Facebook page; developed and launched the <https://bgp.socialcontractinstitute.org/> platform where girls posted their pictures and visitors could rate them; came to an agreement with the Center for Openness Dialogue (COD) in Tirana regarding the BGP Exhibition that was held in February 2019.

## 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 Co-operation Office

## Budget

40,000 CHF

## Timeframe

August 1, 2018 – April 30, 2019

for citizens' participation at the local government level in the Korça region; established a functional network of local actors that would effectively participate in community governance mechanisms in Korça district; and began work to establish an online platform to display the full mapping of the 'agents of change' present in every region in all the six municipalities of Korca district. The agents of change will serve as focal point for the communities they live in, in order to address their problems, concerns and suggestions related to local governance institutions. On the other hand the local governance institutions (thanks also to the Memorandum of Understanding signed with the District Council), can cooperate with the agents in order to inform the communities about various issues.

In August 2018, SCI began implementing the project Community Governance: challenges of functioning for the citizens participation mechanisms in Korça District, in cooperation with our local partner WiDA. The project contributed to the improvement of local government performance in the Korça district by strengthening the mechanisms for citizens' participation at the local government level in this district. During 2018, SCI: signed a Memorandum of Cooperation with District Council of Korça; conducted an assessment of the progress and gaps in the implementation of the Law on Local Self-Government regarding mechanisms



## Other Activities

### **Participation in Justice for All Coalition**

During 2018, SCI contributed to the activities of the Justice for All Coalition in Albania, a network of 32 CSOs that contributes to a transparent, independent and accountable, professional and trustworthy justice system, serving the citizens, and in particular, of non-profit groups through the monitoring of justice, advocacy and public education institutions. These activities included: monitoring the establishment of the new justice system institutions; monitoring of the vetting process; drafting the national strategy of public legal education in cooperation with the Parliament of Albania; various awareness raising campaigns.

### **Gender Mainstreaming and Social Inclusion Media Guide**

In December 2018, SCI began work to develop a Gender Mainstreaming and Social Inclusion Media Guide to include practical guidelines and on offline and

online resources that women and men journalists can use to access data, analysis, and perspectives related to gender-based discrimination and gender equality in Albania and beyond.

### **Fundraising Gala Dinner for LGBTI Shelter**

During April – May 2018, SCI served in the organizing committee for the 4th Fundraising Gala Dinner “Love is ALL” in support of the LGBTI Shelter, and event that took place on May 17, 2018, in Tirana. The event raised 35,000 USD and promoted the work of LGBTI activists.

### **Support for Roma Children**

On the Activism Day - October 22, 2018 - SCI staff and volunteers visited the Community Center in Shkoza that serves the Roma community in Tirana. SCI staff and volunteers spent a day at this center helping with its daily activities and organized leisure activities for the children.



# Organizational Development and Fundraising

## Organizational Development

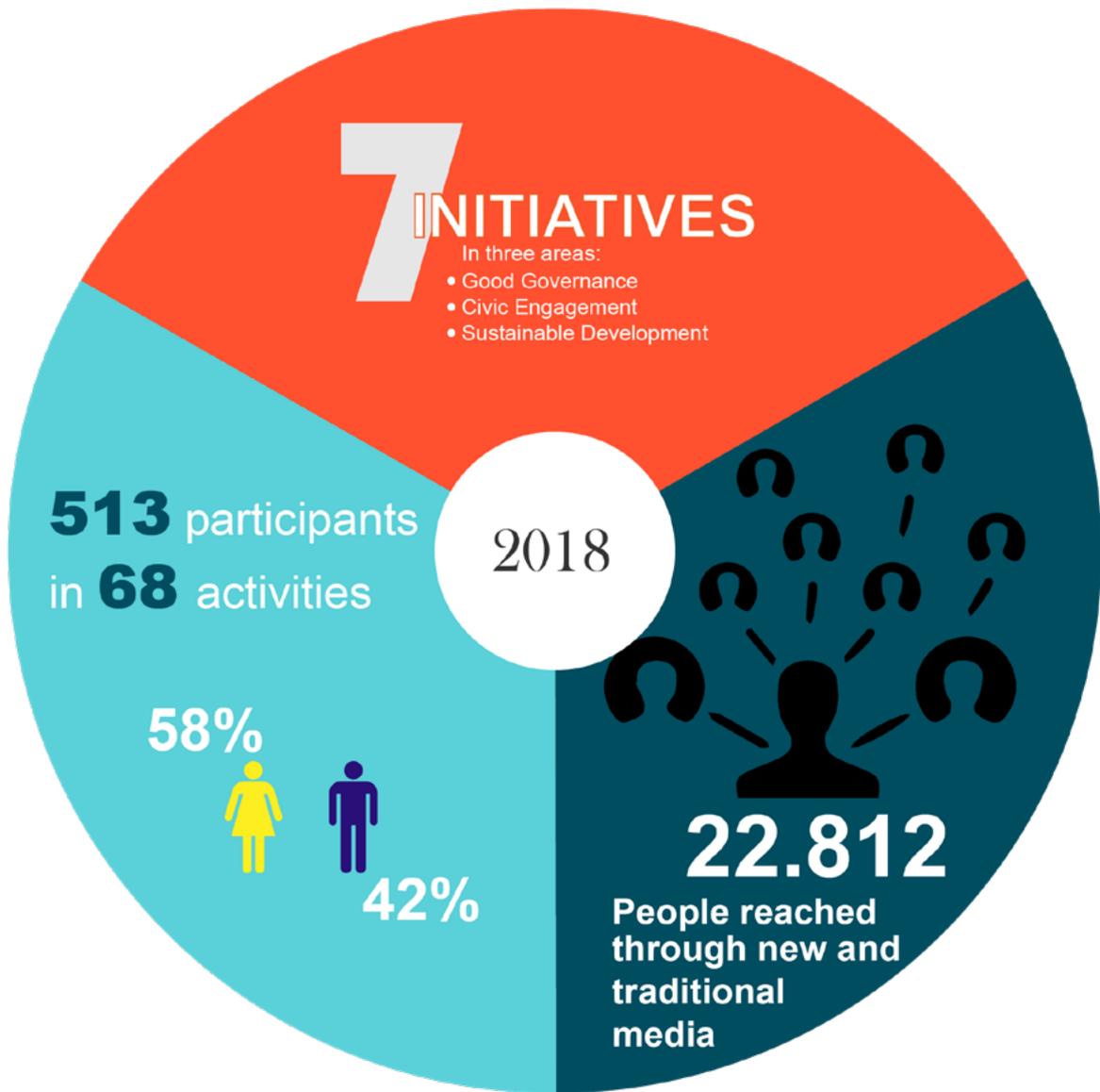
Since February 2018, SCI participates in the capacity development assistance program of the *Accelerated Civic Development and Cooperation Project in Albania* (ACDC), funded by USAID/Albania and implemented by ANTTARC (Albanian National Training and Technical Assistance Resource Center). SCI staff attended 10 training sessions on organizational development and a study visit in Warsaw organized by ACDC. In the last quarter of 2018, ACDC experts began assisting SCI to draft its first Strategic Plan. Participation in this



program has helped SCI to network, exchange experience, and establish partnerships with participating CSOs that come from various regions in Albania. For example, SCI partnered with two other participating CSOs - AKS in Librazhd and GLV “Integrimi” in Dibra - in SCI applications to various donors.

During the reporting period, SCI continued to benefit from EWMI’s support with SCI’s organizational development and fundraising efforts, through EWMI’s Director for Civil Society Programs, Delina Fico, and EWMI’s New York office.

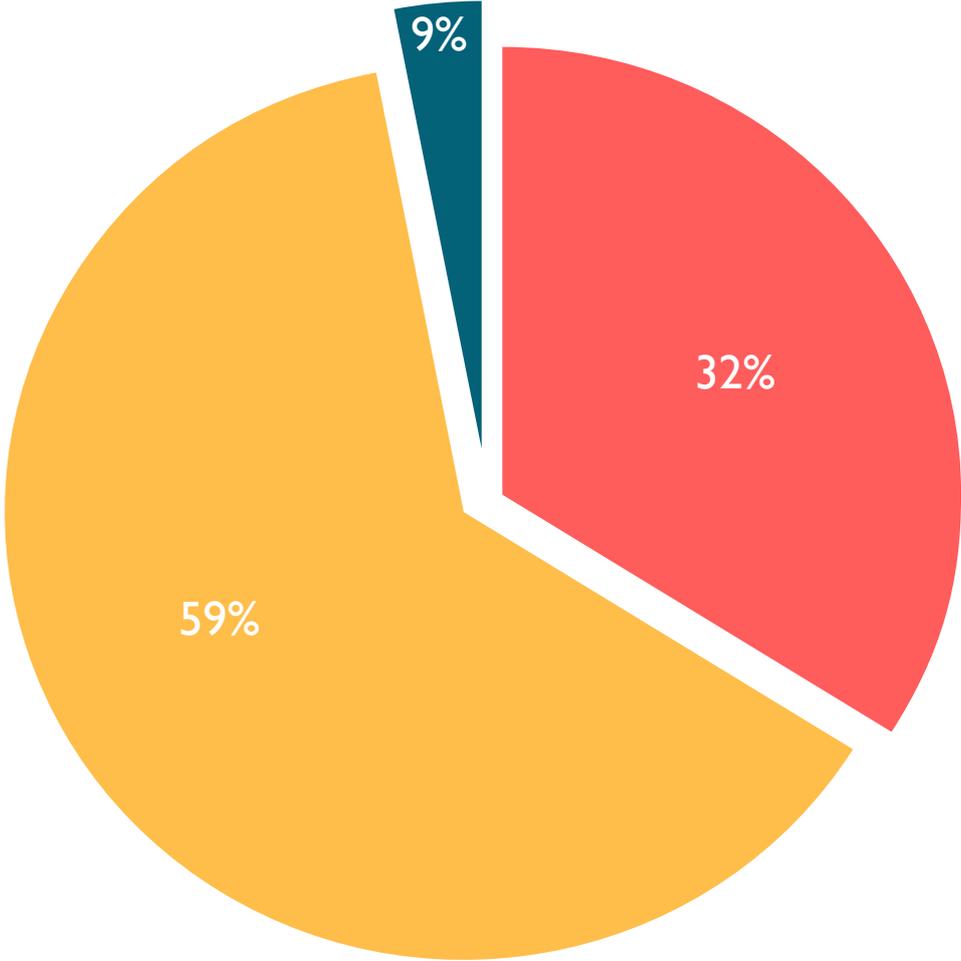
In September 2018, SCI hired Ms. Dea Miloti for the full-time position of Project Coordinator. Dea served as the Project Coordinator for the BGP project, manages SCI’s public outreach and monitoring and evaluation efforts, and assists with other tasks, as needed.



SCI impact during 2018

# Financial Data

Budget for 2018  
**106,637 USD**



- ▶ Civic Engagement
- ▶ Rule of Law
- ▶ Non-Project Activities



# Annual Report 2018



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