



**REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA**  
**AGENCY FOR THE SUPPORT OF CIVIL SOCIETY**

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Greetings,

In this mid 2014, the Agency for the Support of Civil Society (ASCS), in the framework of supporting civil society, has released its 5<sup>th</sup> Call for Proposals, addressed to non-profit organizations operating in Albania. This call was preceded by the selection of a new Supervisory Board, which consists of nine members, five of whom are members representing civil society and four are members representing the central public administration institutions. The Board selected a new Executive Director, Mr. Andi Kananaj, on May 26, 2014.

The mission of the ASCS is to encourage, through financial assistance, the sustainable development of civil society and the creation of favorable conditions for civil initiatives to the benefit of public. The new leadership of the Agency is working to develop a long term strategy in order to fulfill its mission. In this process, the Agency is open to involve different stakeholders of civil society such as NGOs, civic initiatives, academic institutions, research centers, think tanks, foundations, international partners, central and local government etc. In this context, you are invited to give your inputs while we complete our long-term strategy.

The 5<sup>th</sup> Call for Proposals so far has had a lot of interest from civil society; this was noted during the orientation sessions held on June 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>, 2014, where NGOs were invited to get information and guidance about the application form, compliance issues, and documents accompanying the application. During these two days, more than 100 representatives of NGOs attended the sessions, where they actively participated with questions and suggestions. This Call covers the following areas: Good governance and rule of law; Strengthening the institution of tolerance and dialogue as the fundamental values of democracy; Environmental protection; Strengthening the capacity of the new generation; Promoting of cultural heritage; Strengthening the cooperation between civil society organizations; Strengthening the capacity of organizations; Promoting the inclusion of civil society in policy-making and decision-making.

In our effort to be transparent and open with civil society, ASCS is also using different innovative and interactive tools of communication, such as social networks (click [here](#) for our Facebook page, and [here](#) to follow us on Twitter) and an online forum ([www.amshc.gov.al/forum](http://www.amshc.gov.al/forum)).

In the following months and thereafter, we hope to create an impact in encouraging the development of civil society in Albania, through our work, and with your invaluable help.

ASCS crew