



The Bulgarian School of Politics Will Work for an Effective Citizen Participation in Public Policy Development

Who represents the citizens in public advisory boards in Bulgaria? How these boards account to the people? And what rules should be followed by them in order to be transparent and to work effectively? Models for effective public councils, that can be implemented in our country will be developed by the Bulgarian School of Politics "Dimitry Panitza ". In the next 18 months, the team of the School will work on the project "Models and Good Practices for Legitimate Civil Representation" financed by the NGO Programme under the European Economic Area Financial Mechanism 2009-2014.

The project will be presented at a press conference that will be held on February 27 (Thursday), at 13.00 pm at the Bulgarian Press Club.

The project aims to facilitate the dialogue and interaction between decision-makers, civil society organizations and other stakeholders by offering best practices and models for effective functioning of consultative bodies in which civil representation is legitimate. The existence of such consultative bodies in the country ensures that the solutions found by the public on important issues will be transparent and sustainable as their development includes all stakeholders. This will contribute to strengthening the development of civil society, and to implementation of the principles of democratic governance and public control over public policies.

Currently in Bulgaria there are 75 advisory councils, which advise the executive power in formulating and implementing policies. According to the Portal for Advisory Councils to the Council of Ministers (<http://saveti.government.bg>) only 3 of them have a program for 2014. Only four councils held a meeting in 2013. Consultative bodies should have an expertise and act rationally in order to influence the decisions of the Government. However, most of them do not function properly. Moreover, the points of members' election, problems discussed, proposals made and public justification are totally unclear.

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