**PUBLIC POLICIES REPO**

**PRESENTATION OF A POWERFUL TOOL AT THE JUNCTION OF GOVERNMENT & CIVIL SOCIETY**

In the “*Guidelines for EU support to civil society in Enlargement countries, 2014 – 2020*”, published by DG Enlargement in October 2013, the EU Commission qualifies of “*critical importance*” the existence of “…*structures and mechanisms for Civil Society cooperation with Public Institutions, that allows for free, clear and accessible flow of information on matters of public interest*”.

The Albanian Government has indicated its firm commitment through the initiation and establishment of different initiatives and structures, immediately after. The most important are the creation last October of the ad-hoc Working Group on Civil Society directly under the PMO; and the preparation of the Road Map on Enabling a Favourable Environment for the Civil Society in Albania.

Today’s presentation introduces the most recent Civil Society contribution to this dynamics.

From its beginnings in February 2013, we have built ShtetiWeb portal as an interactive platform where civil society and public institutions work in partnership through transparency, dialogue and cooperation. Now ShtetiWeb has an archive of 1,956 documents, and totals 460,000 visitors up today for an average of 24,000 visitors a month.

We started Shtetiweb because of the need to offer a unique address for stakeholders where they could find relevant documentation about the Albanian state from the its beginning. To this goal, and after a long period of research, interviews and meetings we created the architecture of ShtetiWeb.

I must underline at this point that we do not pretend by any means that this is the best way to present the information, neither that the list of documents stored in ShtetiWeb is exhaustive. However what we offer, delimitates the scope and provides a faithful representation of major documentary archive produced for, and by the Albanian state.

Practically, ShtetiWeb organises in one web address the Public Policies, the State Reform and offers a platform for public consultation and participation.

In the main menu, we have organised the information according to the pillars of the modern state: Public Institutions, Public Policies, Public Administration, Public Finances and Reform of the State. They are composed by sub-categories that provide sets of documents, including explanatory ones, on the main subject.

* In the Public Policies pillar, we have grouped the documents in 10 sectors - HERE.
* In the Reform of the State we have created specific files for the most important reforms as you may see – HERE
* The actuality is reflected in the rubrique IN FOCUS, composed by the FACT= information, and the ARGUMENT=analysis

Given the importance of the state reforms implemented or under implementation from Rama Government, we have stressed this topic by creating a horizontal band, where we have included information about the State, the Reforms of the State, and the Territorial and Administrative Reform.

By the way, TAR is a good example of the bottom up engagement and content input that civil society could bring to the public debate and policy making in Albania. Shtetiweb team interviewed 250 individuals all over 12 qarks Albania and produced what we called the popular map of the new LGUs, which was also presented before the Parliament during the public consultation period.

During the consultation of the TAR version of Shtetiweb in April 2014, we had up to 5,000 visits per day. After TAR, the most visited subject are Public Administration, Lessons, EU Integration and History of the Albanian State.

CuriaWeb is the public platform where issues affecting policymaking and state reform are presented, discussed and consulted with the public. We have successfully completed two public e-consultations processes regarding:

* regional cooperation in the case Albania - Kosovo whose Green Paper was used by the governments in their January 2014 meeting in Prizren,
* constitutional reform in Albania, whose Green Paper was a very important input for the civil society debate, such as the one supported by SOROS foundation.

The last band purports to show the past and the future of the Albanian state as punctuated by major events, ground breaking debates and the European Integration.

THE REPOSITORY

The REPO space is dedicated to public policy and related documents, organised by level of hierarchy and searchable by type of document, policy field, reference period and the Issuing / Supporting entity.

To build the typology and architecture, we used the Integrated Planning System and its three main pillars: National Strategy of Development and Integration; the Medium-Term Budget Programming and External Assistance.

* Inside each NSDI (or NSSED) box, we have classified the Sector Strategies, Policy Documents, Strategy Documents and Project Assistance Matrix. The NSDI box is complemented by the yearly Progress Reports and the respective Legal base.
* In the External Assistance pillar, we have presented External Assistance Orientation Document and the Progress Reports for Foreign Assistance.
* In the MTBP we have put the Budget document.

The Integrated Planning System box, includes the Road Map and Technical Assistance Plan (including the IPS Communication Strategy, etc); the Rationale; and the Legal Base.

According to the search goal, REPO gives you the documents that satisfy the criteria. The added value of REPO hierarchical organisation and of the ShtetiWeb-wide archive, is the reference of end-result with related documents (from IPS system) and the cross-link with other documents in ShtetiWeb.

During our identification and classification of documents, we observed that a very significant portion of them were supported by donors, and were “known” or referred as such. So we have included a search variable referring to Supporting Authority. This needs still significant work and we would be grateful to receive any such document that you may have in your archives.

As other findings during this phase we may mention the need for a unifying format of public policy documents; the difficulty of classification in the case when the name of institution has changed over time; sometimes the absence of any follow-up analysis for certain policies, etc.

The REPO contains now 182 documents and going up. The next challenges are:

* Enrichment with more documents from before 2007;
* Refining of the cross-linking amongst policy documents and articles, lessons, analysis, etc;
* Translation in English language for selected documents

I would like to end that we would never have been able to arrive here without the support of the Department for Development Policy, Financing and Foreign Aid, whose Director Ms. Majlinda Dhuka I take the opportunity to thank in person. Extremely valuable has been the continuous contribution of the Director of Strategic Planification Unit, Ms. Oriana Arapi regarding the methodology and identification of key documents.

The last word goes for our partners, the Swiss Cooperation Office which have been alongside us during this whole endeavour.