



PARTNERS
SERBIA

ANNUAL REPORT



2024

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ABBREVIATIONS:

- PS – Partners for Democratic Change Serbia (Partners Serbia)
- ADR – Alternative Dispute Resolution
- CSO(s) – Civil society organization(s)
- PDP Law – Law on Personal Data Protection
- PDP Strategy – Strategy for Personal Data Protection
- CSF – Civil Society Facility
- USAID – United States Agency for International Development
- ABA ROLI – American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative
- DEU – Delegation of the European Union to Serbia
- BTM – Balkan Trust for Democracy
- FOSS – Open Society Foundation Serbia
- Commissioner – Commissioner for Information of Public Importance and Personal Data Protection
- ROL – Rule of Law
- ECNL - European Center for Not-for-Profit Law
- UNCAC – United Nations Convention Against Corruption
- NED – National Endowment for Democracy
- CSRA – Civil Society Resilience Strengthening Activity
- OSCE – Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
- MATRA- Netherlands fund for Regional Partnership
- YUCOM- Lawyers’ Committee for Human Rights
- BCHR – Belgrade Centre for Human Rights
- DFF – Digital Freedom Fund
- BIRN Serbia– Balkan Investigative Network Serbia
- CHRIS Serbia - The Network of the Committees for Human Rights in Serbia
- CHRIS
- UNESCO - The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
- WG – Working Group
- PW – Privacy Week

2024 – A REFLECTION ON THE YEAR BEHIND US



In 2024, the global political climate continued to change at an accelerated pace, with new conflicts and crisis emerging, which has affected our region and the work of civil society, as well.

The space for work of civil society organizations has been affected by further using SLAPPs to silence activists, the overall media narrative of presenting civil society organizations and activists as domestic traitors and foreign agents as well as different cases of spyware used against activists and investigative journalists throughout Serbia.

In addition, political and social events in the region and in Serbia, from the falling of a concrete canopy that killed 15 people to the student-led protests for accountability and against corruption that started in November 2024, affected the overall stability of the country and citizens' trust in institutions and their integrity.

Throughout 2024, Partners Serbia continued to develop and implement several projects and initiatives, through different capacity building, research and advocacy activities, in the areas of rule of law (ROL), good governance, human rights and democratization.

Partners Serbia also continued providing free legal support and advice to Serbian citizens, activists and CSOs, primarily in area of access to information of public importance, personal data protection and anti-SLAPP.

All activities have been implemented thanks to donor support or from Partners Serbia's existing resources.

Since the Covid-19 pandemic, the hybrid way of working continued throughout 2024. This method has allowed Partners Serbia to organize some meetings online, which proved to be effective in implementing some project activities.

During 2024, Partners Serbia team also welcomed two new colleagues – Ana Krstić (Projects and Communications Associate) and Dragana Lukač Zečević. (Compliance and Business Development Manager).

ABOUT US

In 2008, the idea of establishing Partners for Democratic Changes Serbia (Partners Serbia) was born. It seemed that the biggest challenge was how to develop an organization that, in terms of program areas and work methodology, would manage to stand out among a number of civil society organizations that have been active and recognizable in Serbia and the region for years.

Partners Serbia was founded within the project "Partners for Sustainable Leadership" supported by the "General Electric" Foundation and with the help of the organization Partners for Democratic Change (today Partners Global) based in Washington DC (USA). The goal of our work is to improve civil society and institutional development in Serbia and the region, strengthen local capacities, utilize the knowledge of domestic experts, and gain insight from the experiences of comparative practices.

During almost 17 years of our work, we have progressed our expertise in the field of rule of law, democracy and human rights development, civil society advancement, peaceful conflict resolution and change management. We have continued to offer solutions and programs tailored to local institutions and communities. We are especially proud that some of the social topics gained importance thanks to our contribution. Thus, we are among the first organizations that are active in the field of peaceful dispute resolution, with special emphasis on the need for a wider use of mediation as a mechanism suitable for not only solving the current dispute or conflict, but also building wider social cohesion and a culture of dialogue important for post-conflict societies like ours. Also, our pioneering work in the field of privacy protection has been recognized by numerous institutions, commercial entities and citizens, who see us as a natural partner in this area.

We implemented around 55 projects that have involved over 12,000 participants. We created and distributed numerous publications and analyses, developed unique methodologies for creating sustainable online learning programs () and organized numerous conferences, debates, forums, workshops, and trainings. We initiated and helped establish the first Centre for peaceful settlement of disputes in the local community in Serbia and the region, the office of the Free Legal Aid Service in the Municipality of Bujanovac, as well as the Bar Academy of the Bar Association of Serbia. In cooperation with the Commissioner for Information of Public Importance and Protection of Personal Data, in 2010 we initiated the beginning of marking the International Day of Personal Data Protection in Serbia. Aware of the importance of the existence of professional and stable organizations for the development of civil society in the country, we supported the establishment and improvement of the internal capacities of other citizens' associations, such as the National Association of Mediators of Serbia, the Association of Local Ombudspersons of Serbia, the Network of Inspectors of Serbia, and in the course of our work we achieved cooperation or partnerships with over 70 organizations from all over the country and region.

We are the first organization in Serbia accredited by the Ministry of Justice for conducting basic and specialized training for mediators. We also have accreditation from the Ministry of State Administration and Local Self-Government for conducting training for employees and representatives of local governments.

Today, the Partners Serbia team consists of 12 members, ready to respond to all upcoming challenges, who are determined and capable of completing all future tasks and plans.

Representatives of Partners Serbia participate in the work of expert bodies of professional associations, as well as in the Government of Serbia's working groups for drafting and amending legal regulations in the areas we work in. We also have an established network of international consultants with whom we regularly cooperate, with experience in the field of rule of law, judicial reform, democracy, good governance, alternative dispute resolution, freedom of information and data protection.

Our activities are also aimed at strengthening the capacities of other organizations and institutions for the expertise that we have developed over the years. Through partnerships, networks and joint initiatives, we achieve successful cooperation with a number of civil society organizations in Serbia and the region.

VALUES AND WORK

The work of the organization is based on the values shared by all team members.

Values:

- Ethics/Integrity - we adhere to high ethical standards in our work and respect our established system of moral values (both as individuals and as an organization)
- Innovation - we find new ways and content to get closer to target groups and contribute to the development of democracy in our society
- Responsibility - we take responsibility for the activities we carry out and for spreading the adopted moral values in society
- Respect for diversity - we are able to hear and appreciate different views and to accept those who think differently, as well as to understand the needs and views of other groups
- Solidarity - we understand other people's needs and problems and are ready to step out of our comfort zone to help others
- Principledness - we do not deviate from our positions even when obstacles appear



Way we work:

- Professionalism - we believe that to achieve excellence in the work we strive for, constant work on strengthening the individual and team competencies of employees is important. Partners' work is based on the principles of ethics that we incorporated into the Code of Ethics and other internal acts of the organization.
- Openness - we are open to cooperation with other organizations/bodies and individuals whose goal is the permanent development of democratic relations in society, respect for individual and collective rights.
- Transparency - everything we do is available to the public.
- Democracy - we give all employees opportunities to participate in decisions concerning our organization.
- Equality (+tolerance) - we treat employees and associates equally, taking into account the differences that exist among all of us.
- Participation and giving opportunities - we are ready to participate in the projects and activities of other organizations, as well as to include them in ours; our initiatives and projects always involve an invitation for the active participation of all interested parties.
- Teamwork - the project way of working implies that we are all involved from idea to realization in accordance with our affinities and abilities.
- Innovation and creativity - we encourage the development and application of new methodologies in our work and follow trends.

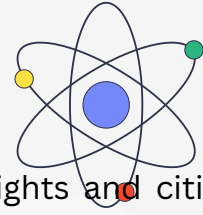


When it comes to opportunities for further organizational and professional development, during summer 2024, Partners Serbia organized 2 sessions on Effective Requests for Smoother Team Coordination, with the help from colleagues and associates Oriana LaVilla and Tomomi Sasaki, who coordinated the entire process. All employees participated in the workshops, which served to enable Partners Serbia's team to better implement project activities and cooperate as a team. Some of the key insight during the sessions was how to observe the bigger picture, make more time for people, be more empathetic when making requests, possibilities for open discussions and hearing each other, have clear communication and feedback and ensure more collegiality without jeopardizing personal tasks.

New Strategic Framework

The new Strategic Framework of Partners Serbia has been established in 2023 and remains unchanged throughout 2024 as well.

IF-THEN (Theory of Change)



If Serbian institutions are able to protect citizens' fundamental rights and citizens take part in processes pertinent for their rights and interests, and

If Serbian society is able to anticipate, prepare and adapt to promises and perils of the rapid technological enhancement, and

If citizens and social groups in Serbia address their differences through dialogue and peaceful resolution of conflicts,

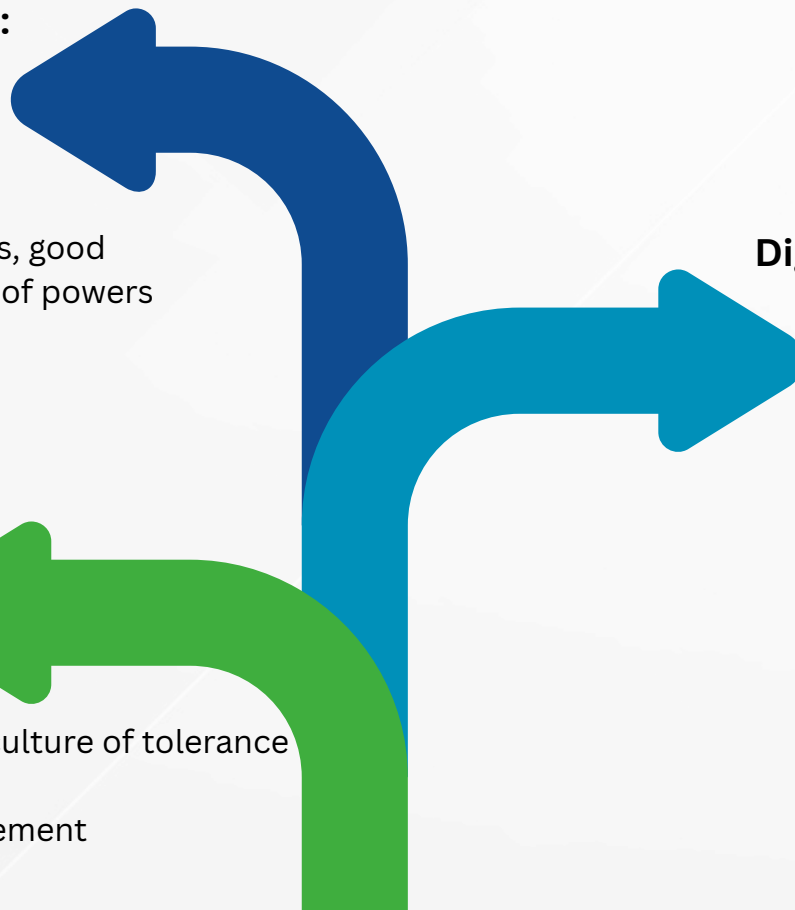
Then Serbia will be a more fair/just, peaceful and resilient society, able to contribute to the stability of the region as a member of the European Union.

PATHWAYS

Pathway 1: Serbia in EU:

fundamentals first

- Rule of law
- Fundamental rights
- Resilient civil society
- Democratic institutions, good governance, separation of powers



Pathway 2: Digitalized World: the future is now

- Digital safety and security
- Digital transparency and accountability
- Democracy and citizens' participation in the digital environment
- Human rights in the digital environment

Pathway 3: Peaceful Societies/ Communities

- Dialogue in society and culture of tolerance
- ADR
- Peaceful conflict management

PROJECTS



The projects that have been implemented during the course of 2024:

- Using New Media to Promote Government Transparency 3**, supported by National Endowment for Democracy, in consortium with 3 civil society organizations from the region: Metamorphosis Foundation from North Macedonia, Center for Democratic Transition from Montenegro and Citizens Association Why not? from Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- Civil Society Resilience Strengthening Activity**, supported by USAID, in consortium with the following organizations: Partners Global, DT Institute, European Center for Not-for-Profit Law (ECNL) and Civic Initiatives.
- Data Protection in the Digital Era**, supported by American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative (ABA ROLI).
- Anti-SLAPP Initiative**, supported by the Delegation of the EU in Serbia, in consortium with Balkan Investigative Network Serbia (BIRN Serbia) and The Network of the Committees for Human Rights in Serbia CHRIS (CHRIS Network)
- Data Protection in the World of Cyber Challenges**, supported by Smart Balkans Civil Society for Shared Society in the Western Balkans.
- Data Protection in the Digital Era**, supported by ABA ROLI.

- Preventing Unlawful Biometric Surveillance in Serbian Healthcare and Education Institutions**, supported by Digital Freedom Fund (DFF)
- Growth and Digital Rights: Ensuring the Integration of the Western Balkans into the Digital Single Market**, supported by Open Society Foundations Western Balkan, in consortium with Metamorphosis foundation (North Macedonia), Institute for Democracy and Mediation (Albania), NVO 35 mm (Montenegro), Why not? (Bosnia and Herzegovina) and Women in Tech (Kosovo)
- Price of Privacy** - Untying the Knot Between Institutions and Tabloid Media, supported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Netherlands, through the MATRA programme.
- Annual Work Programme under the Framework Partnership Agreement – "Improvement of Transparency in Public Administration"**, supported by the EU Delegation to Serbia.
- The Future of the Western Balkans in Digital Europe**, supported by Open Society Foundation Serbia
- Surveillance and Censorship in the Western Balkans**, supported by Balkan Investigative Network Serbia (BIRN Serbia)
- Trust in Media in South-East Europe: Support to Journalism as a Public Good**, supported by UNESCO - The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

Within the aforementioned projects, Partners Serbia team completed several activities, presented below:

- Organized the fourth annual Privacy, Week, a multi-stakeholder event which lasted for 3 days, to mark International Data Protection Day. The event was centered around discussions on privacy and data protection issues with experts from the civil, private, and public sector. PW was aimed at promoting privacy and personal data protection standards in all spheres of life, as well as creating a network of people from the civil, public and private sectors who understand the importance of these topics. The first day of Privacy Week had 49 in person and 495 online participants. The second day had 54 in person and 487 online participants, while the third day had 42 in person and 693 online participants.
- Organised the conference "The Future of Freedom of Information" to mark International Access to Information Day (28 September). The conference included 65 participants, including local, regional, and international experts, journalists, activists, and decision-makers.
- Held their Annual Privacy School, an online school on privacy related issues which was attended by 27 participants who successfully completed the course.
- Co-published the Serbian version of the Guidelines for Governance of Digital Platforms, in cooperation with UNESCO.

- Organized 4 in-person regional trainings for representatives of local institutions (social work centers, police, judiciary, local self-governments, etc), media and CSOs, on legal and ethical privacy protection standards. The training program was structured to cover theoretical and practical aspects of protection of privacy, and was organized in two parts – online lectures at PS e-learning platform and in-person trainings in Belgrade, Nis, Kragujevac and Novi Sad. The training covered the following topics: regulatory framework on protection of privacy in media, analysis of specific cases and discussion Analysis of media cases and Gathering of Data and Media Business Models. A total of 51 people participated in these 4 trainings.
- Worked on 7 legal cases, providing legal assistance to privacy violation victims.
- published 2 analysis (baseline and follow-up) on court cases of privacy violations. The analyses consisted of the quantitative and qualitative analysis of the verdicts, presentation of the current state of privacy in Serbia, the role the media plays in privacy violations, as well as recommendations for improving the privacy of citizens.
- Produced a comprehensive analysis on SLAPP proceedings in Serbia that has been developed to support improvement of SLAPP-related legal framework and implementation of the existing legal framework. The analysis consists of the elaboration of the domestic and international legal background in this area, local practice and examples, together with the analysis of specific court rulings, together with the recommendations for addressing this issue in the future. The analysis contains detailed analysis of 7 cases that had elements of SLAPP to map out potential common denominators and to better prevent these types of procedures in the future.
- Became part of the Anti SLAPP Working Group in Serbia which is being coordinated by the Civic Initiatives, and is being used by the group of civil society and media association to define a joint policy priorities and advocacy strategies that will have been used during consultations with decision makers and competent institutions. Several meetings of the WG were held throughout 2024.
- Awarded 7 subgrants to local organisations in Serbia to enable them to become anti-SLAPP hubs in their communities and implement anti-SLAPP related projects. The following organizations were awarded subgrants: Iustitia MootCourt and Debate Club (from Niš), Center for Investigative Journalism Kruševac CINK (from Kruševac), Center for Education and Transparency CETRA (from Pančevo), Center Pero (from Pančevo), Independent Association of Journalists of Vojvodina (from Novi Sad), Tvrđava Movement (from Smederevo) and Krokodil Center (from Belgrade).
- Organized a training for local attorneys at law who were trained to represent clients in SLAPP proceedings. A total of 16 participants were present at the training in Kragujevac. During the training, attorneys-at-law and local lawyers affiliated with local CSOs gained useful knowledge on how SLAPPs are being used to intimidate activists and journalists and strategies for the provision of legal defence to victims of SLAPPs. The topic that were covered during the training were: presentation of the findings of the baseline analysis, the legal framework in this area (domestic and international), ways in which the media is being silenced by these types of procedures by analysis of a specific case, as well as ways in which this issue should be communicated with the public.

- Provided 9 activists who were victims of SLAPPs with legal support and/legal representation through the Project's legal aid program.
- completed filming the documentary on SLAPPs in Serbia, involving the victims of SLAPPs, and building on key findings of research, in cooperation with BIRN Serbia. The documentary intends to present some of the most important SLAPPs in Serbia, through interviews with victims directly affected by these proceedings, present the key findings of the SLAPP analysis and present potential ways that this issue could be tackled in the future. The documentary will be presented to the general public in 2025.
- Organized Advanced Training on Communication and Negotiation for CSOs for 36 participants from 30 organizations. The first Module of the training was focused on advancing personal conflict prevention and resolution competency of civil society activists, devoted to understanding and managing conflicts on individual level, advancing personal communication techniques, and enhancing negotiation and dialogue skills. The second Module of the training was dedicated to advancing organizational communication competency, and the focus was on developing effective communication strategies, utilizing digital communication tools and channels effectively, and formulating engaging and impactful messages and successfully navigating CSOs in the world of conflicting narratives.
- Organized Crisis Communication Training for 21 participants from 14 organizations (Nodes), focusing on delivering clear guidelines and roadmaps for Nodes to understand the principles of crisis communication, necessary steps when the crisis hit the organization, including do's and don'ts.
- Organized 7 online House in Order training courses for civil society representatives to ensure compliance of CSOs with the existing legal framework in various domains, and to further strengthen their resilience (for over 600 registered participants).
- Organized 7 thematic Open-door sessions, aimed at strengthening the capacities of civil society organizations. The focus was on education through the Open-door sessions, enhancing the HiO E-learning platform, and conducting promotional activities.
- Created an E-learning course consisting of 5 modules, each covering a specific area of organization functioning.
- Organized 6 peer exchange meetings with 122 participants from 85 organizations. Meetings gathered directors and professionals in the sector to discuss pertinent issues and concerns affecting the work of CSOs.
- Organized two panels within Internet Freedom Summit in NM (DSA and Large Language Models)
- Submitted comments on draft AI Development Strategy.
- Published 2 analyses on high tech crimes proceedings and produced 2 policy briefs with recommendations for improvement.
- Published analysis on Western Balkan countries' readiness to implement the Digital Services Act (DSA).
- Organized training for CSOs on the Digital Services Act
- Organized 3 days strategic event for 6 WB organizations, with the goal of creating joint advocacy approach

- Published joint advocacy approach on DSA
 - Published paper on hate speech in the region in the context of DSA.
 - Initiated 2 proceedings before the Commissioner for Access to Information of Public Importance and Personal Data Protection with regards to preventing biometric video surveillance.
 - Organized Legal clinic for Mediation – the first part of the clinic has been completed and the second one has been initiated.
 - Several personal data protection motions submitted to the Commissioner for Access to Information and Personal Data Protection.
 - produced three annual reports assessing the openness and transparency of all three branches of government in Serbia. This core activity, conducted annually, aims to support evidence-based advocacy for enhancing transparency standards in public institutions.
 - actively participated in policy change processes (e.g., working groups, public consultation processes, public hearings, and public debates) related to improving the level of transparency and openness of public institutions in Serbia, including Fifth Open Government Partnership Action Plan (2023-2026), Draft Rules of Procedure for Courts
- Draft Judicial Academy Law (Partners Serbia developed a comprehensive policy document as part of this process, which was submitted to the Ministry of Justice and the Venice Commission), the Draft Law on Free Access to Information of Public Importance etc.
- Partners Serbia was one of 23 civil society organizations that submitted a joint proposal for new members of the Regulatory Body for Electronic Media (REM) . Together with Civic Initiatives, Partners Serbia coordinated all the administrative procedures, which were comprehensive and successfully attracted support from other CSOs for the proposed candidates.
 - produced 15 policy documents aimed at enhancing the transparency and openness of public institutions in Serbia. Five of these were comprehensive policy documents focused on the legislative changes mentioned above. One document was specifically directed at the High Council of the Judiciary, while the remaining ten were designed to improve proactive transparency standards in 10 selected public institutions.
 - organized 3 consultative meetings and attended more than 15 different meetings, round tables, and conferences organized by public institutions, the civil sector, and others related to openness and transparency.
 - Organized 2 pilot workshops at the Serbian-Korean Information Access Center (SKIP Center) in Belgrade on November 12 and 13—one for executive government institutions and the other for the judiciary—gathering a total of 18 participants and featuring lectures on proactive transparency best practices in collaboration with the Commissioner.
 - provided expert support in 6 cases to journalists and activists seeking access to public information.

·launched The FOI Open Resource Platform. The platform represents a significant step in strengthening transparency practices in Serbia by providing a centralized and accessible space for civil society organizations (CSOs), journalists, researchers, public sector entities, and citizens to share and access Freedom of Information (FOI) requests and responses. As the platform grows and more users participate, it could drive significant progress in promoting government transparency and empowering civil society to hold public institutions accountable for their actions.

·In September 2024, Partners Serbia began establishing an alumni network for journalism students who completed the Future of Freedom of Information program, bringing together nearly 90 graduates from journalism and communication studies at universities in Niš, Novi Sad, and Belgrade. Since 2018, this program has engaged students in investigative journalism, resulting in more than 40 published stories. The network's development is an ongoing process, and in 2025, it will focus on structuring its organization and exploring opportunities for joint initiatives in journalism, activism, and public interest work.

·organized an online informational session on the “Zdravitas” project. Throughout the event, between 120 and 150 participants were consistently present. Approximately 40 comments and questions were submitted during the live stream, highlighting the public's intense need for a space to be informed about this topic. The video session, so far, has garnered over 2,500 views.

During 2024, Partners Serbia:

- held around 40 workshops, trainings, conferences and different events (both online and offline) with around 1300 participants in total.
- developed 11 publications.
- produced 21 policy documents.
- Provided legal or expert support to 22 activists and organizations.
- Awarded 7 subgrants to local organizations in Serbia.

COOPERATION & NETWORKING



As a part of the ACTION SEE regional network, Partners Serbia, together with the organizations “Zasto ne?”, “Center for Democratic Transition” and “Metamorphosis Foundations” conducted a series of activities, including annual regional monitoring of the openness of public institutions (the Regional Openness Index), advocacy activities for the improvement of openness of public institutions in the region, and several public events, including Conference “Transparency of public institutions”, held in Montenegro.

In 2024, Partners Serbia joined the Global Network Initiative (GNI). GNI is the leading multistakeholder forum for accountability, shared learning, and collective advocacy on government and company policies and practices at the intersection of technology and human rights.

In 2024, Partners Serbia also joined the DSA Human Right Alliance - an informal network of organizations working on enabling the protection of human rights within the framework of Digital Services Act. As a part of this effort, and with the support of the OSCE Media Freedom Representative, Partners Serbia participated in the workshop dedicated to DSA spill-over effect, organized in Vienna in November 2024.

During the year, Partners Serbia established a fruitful cooperation with the UNESCO. In addition to participating in the international conference on internet governance, organized in Dubrovnik, Croatia, in June 2024, we also translated and published UNESCO's The Guidelines for the Management of Digital Platforms.

Partners Serbia continued to participate in the Regional Information Integrity Forum and took part in the DISICON conference that took place in Pristina in December 2024. As a part of the Conference, Partners Serbia participated in the panel discussion dedicated to harmonization of legislation in the region with the Digital Services Act.

We also participated in number of other international conferences, such the SEEDIG (South-East European Digital Rights Network and Internet governance Forum (IGF). SEEDIG is the network that brings together 19 member organisations – from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Greece, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia – dedicated to the protection and promotion of human rights, both online and offline.

As a part of our anti-SLAPP work, we joined the National Working Group on SLAPPs - the coalition of CSOs and media organizations addressing the raising issue of SLAPP cases against media and activists. In addition, we took part in conferences in Novi Sad and Belgrade, organized by the OSCE Mission to Serbia and INL, on cooperation between media and judiciary.

In November 2024, we also participated in regional annual eSociety conference organized by Metamorphosis foundation in Skopje, North Macedonia, where we discussed results and challenges of digital transformation in the Western Balkans.

We also continued our cooperation with academia and established new partnerships, such as the one with the Mathematic institute of the Serbian Academy of Science and Arts (SANU). In December 2024, we participated in SANU's annual conference on Artificial Intelligence. We continued working with the Faculty of Law, University of Belgrade, with organizing the mediation clinic for law students.

Our cooperation with institutions in Serbia was impacted by the overall political climate in the society. The institution of the Anti-Discrimination Commissioner remained our reliable partner when it comes to addressing the cases of discrimination resulting from the privacy violations. We also maintained cooperation with judicial institutions, working on issues of transparency of judiciary.

Partners Serbia also cooperated with several civil society organizations through the participation in other consultative processes and advocacy activities.

Partners Serbia actively supported the work of different CSOs through participation in lecturers at their trainings and workshops, participation in different conferences, provision of know-how in the field of access to information of public importance and personal data protection etc.

The list of meetings and conferences Partners Serbia representative participated in include:

- Regional Workshop on Parliamentary Monitoring in the Western Balkans (Sarajevo, 17–18 April 2024), organized by the National Democratic Institute (NDI).
- Conference “Beyond the Headlines: Protecting Journalists to Advance Media Freedom” (9 – 10 May 2024, Podgorica)
- Freedom of Information in the Western Balkans 2024 (Tirana, 11–12 June 2024), organized by the Balkan Investigative Reporting Network Albania (BIRN Albania).
- International Conference on Internet Governance (Dubrovnik, 18-19 June 2024).
- POINT Conference (Sarajevo, 24–25 June 2024), organized by NGO Why Not?
- Online Consultative Meeting with the European Commission on Public Administration Reform (PAR) (15 October 2024), organized by the EU Commission.
- Conference: "Process of Creating Public Policies: Participation, Transparency, Responsibility" (Podgorica, 25 October 2024), organized by the Centre for Democratic Transition.
- Anti-Corruption Roundtable: "Are Anti-Corruption Policies Adequate to the State of Corruption?" (7 November 2024), organized by CSO Kareja.
- Regional Workshop on Parliamentary Openness (Tirana, 13 November 2024), organized by NDI alongside the Open Government Partnership (OGP) Western Balkans meeting.
- OGP Western Balkans Meeting (Tirana, 14–15 November 2024), hosted by OGP and the Albanian Government.
- Workshop “Principles for a Global Human-Rights Centered Implementation of the Digital Services Act” (25 November 2024, Vienna)

- Consultative Meeting on the Selection Process for REM Council Members (Belgrade, 18 December 2024), organized by the National Assembly.
- Roundtable: "Amendments to the Law on Free Access to Information of Public Importance: Between Abuse and Rights" (Belgrade, 20 December 2024), organized by the Committee of Lawyers for Human Rights (YUCOM).
- Meetings of the Working Group for Serbia's Fifth OGP Action Plan (2023–2026) (25 October & 27 December 2024), led by the Ministry of Public Administration and Local Self-Government.

Partners Serbia also participated in regular meetings with Partners Network.

MEDIA VISIBILITY



During 2024, Partners Serbia were present in different forms of media, both in daily newspaper, and in different TV programmes to reach as many people as possible and discuss privacy related issues and promote important project activities and research findings. They were also in contact with a PR agency to maximize the reach of their publications, TV and radio guest appearances.

During the year, Partners Serbia had a total of 33 TV and radio appearances. A total combined reach of all our appearances in 2023 was 59.590.696.

Partners Serbia were especially active during their Privacy Week event which was organized in January 2024, during which an entire media campaign was implemented.

Partners Serbia also organized our annual public campaign to mark the International Day for Universal Access to Information and to foster an open debate on transparency-related issues within the public sector. During the September campaign, Partners Serbia secured 90 media engagements (covering transparency-related activities, press releases, TV and radio appearances, interviews, etc.), reaching a total of 8,255,714 individuals/views.

SERVICES

In 2024, Partners Serbia continued to offer services to businesses and the civil sector. PS provided mediation services in the field of dispute resolution.

EMPLOYEES

Partners Serbia team is made up of 12 full-time members. Their team consisted of Ana Toskic Cvetinovic (Executive Director), Blazo Nedic (President of the Managing Board), Uros Misljenovic (Program Officer), Ana Desic (Financial and Compliance Officer), Nastasija Stojanovic (Projects and Communications Coordinator), Kristina Obrenovic (Researcher and Project Coordinator), Damjan Mileusnic (Researcher and Project Coordinator), Milica Andric (Training and Capacity Building Coordinator), Milica Tomic (Attorney-at-Law – Legal Advisor), Oriana LaVilla (Associate) Ana Krstic (Projects and Communication's Associate) and Dragana Lukač Zečević (Compliance and Business Development Manager).

During 2024, Partners Serbia welcomed two new members to the team – Ana Krstić and Dragana Lukač Zečević.

FINANCES

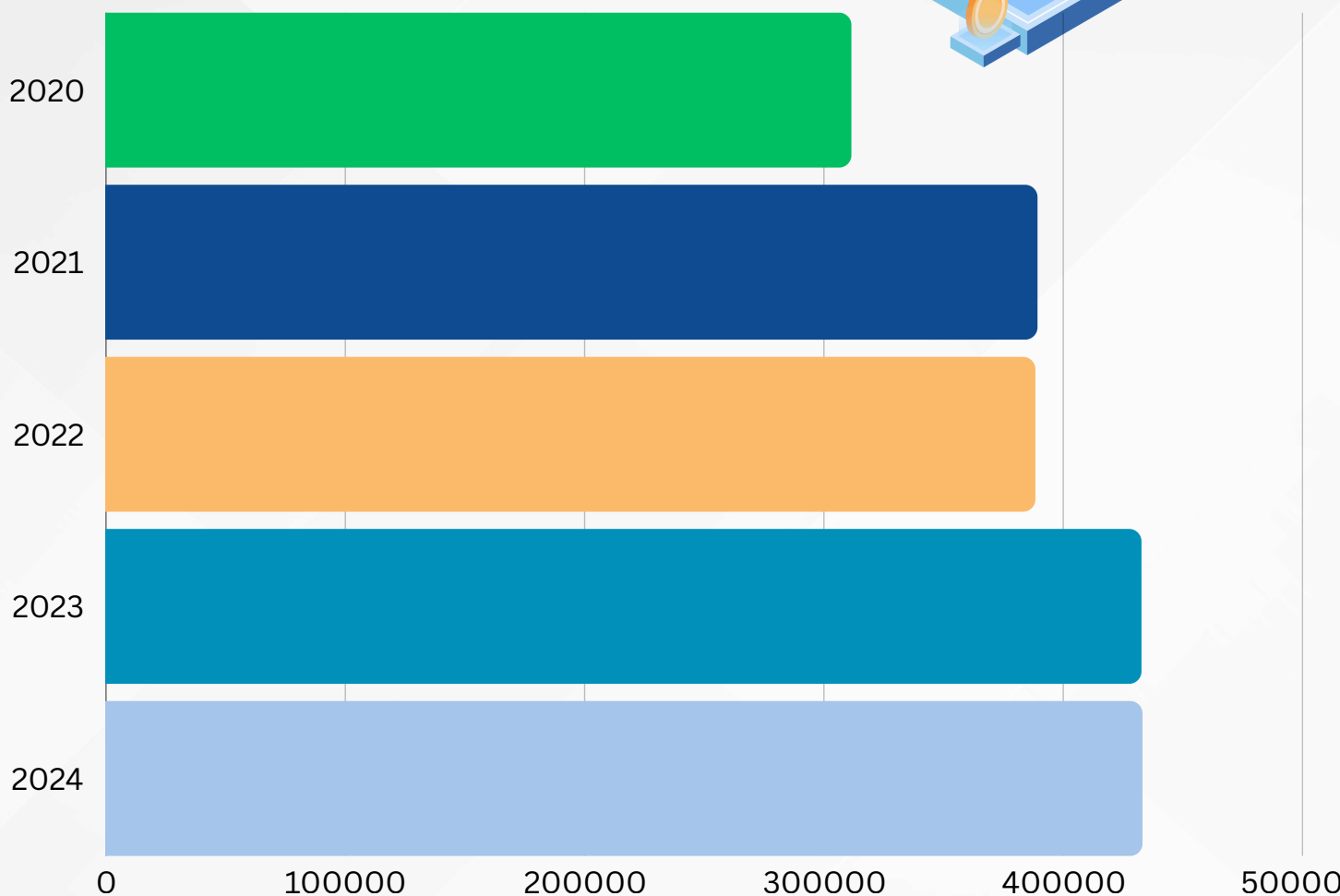
All financial reports from Partners Serbia have been submitted in accordance with the Serbian laws.

Over past few years, Partners Serbia finances have been sound and stable and the budget for 2024 was in the total amount of 433.129 EUR.

Full financial report for 2024 will be available in accordance with state deadlines (end of March 2025).

PARTNERS SERBIA BUDGET

2020-2024



The main sources of funding in 2024 were:

The European Union
USAID
Open Society Foundation – Western Balkans
American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative
SMART Balkans
The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)
Netherlands' Fund for Regional Partnership (MATRA)
National Endowment for Democracy (NED)
Digital Freedom Fund (DFF)



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