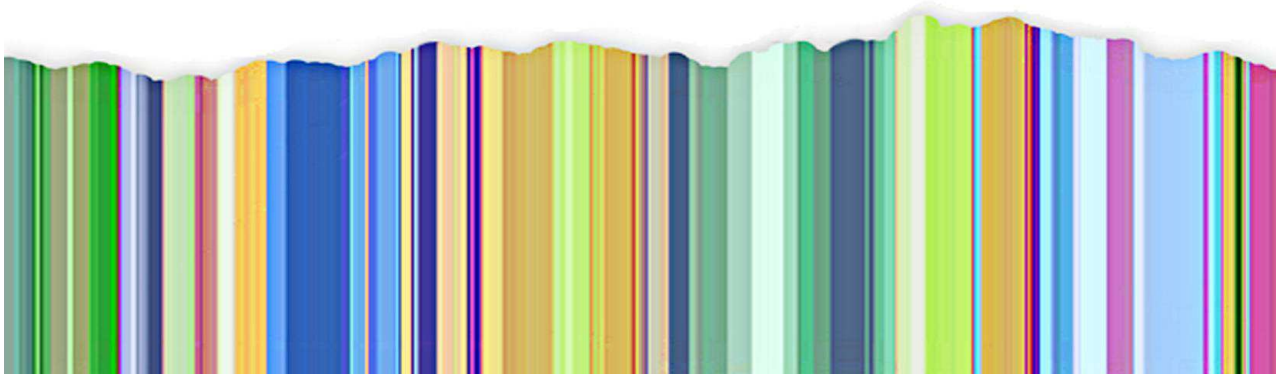


**BULGARIAN CENTER FOR
NOT-FOR-PROFIT LAW
FOUNDATION**

2011 Annual report



OUR MISSION

The mission of BCNL is to provide support for the drafting and implementation of legislation and policies aiming to advance civil society, civic participation and good governance in Bulgaria.

About us

The Bulgarian Center for Not-for-Profit Law (BCNL) was established in July 2001 and incorporated as a public-benefit foundation, registered with the Central Register at the Ministry of Justice. BCNL pursues its mission with the strong belief that the development of the NGO legal framework is instrumental for the establishment of an independent and prosperous civil society.

In 2011 BCNL had its ten year anniversary.

We would like to take the opportunity to extend our gratitude to all our partners, colleagues and donors for the support and trust in our work together for the past years!

Main BCNL activities include:

- Implement legislative initiatives and advocacy campaigns, provide technical assistance to NGOs and institutions in legislation drafting and implementation;
- Enhance the capacity of NGOs on issues related to the legislation regulating their activities, advocacy and good governance;
- Provide legal assistance to NGOs through consultations on the legal and tax framework of the activities of foundations and associations;
- Conduct legal studies, analyses and research on topics related to the legal regulation and the activities of NGOs, draw up strategies and organization development plans;
- Organize trainings in NGO legal and financial regulation, good governance, fundraising, provision of social services, advocacy, etc.

BCNL Staff:

Ralitsa Velichkova, Director, manages the foundation, lawyer, legal expert in NGO legal framework
Luben Panov, Program Director, internationally recognized expert in NGO legal and financial framework
Pavleta Aeksieva, Program Director, lawyer and expert in NGO general legal and tax framework
Alexander YOLOVSKI, Financial and Administrative Manager until February 2011
Elina Petkova, Administrative Manager since October 2011
Atanas Slavov, Lawyer, expert in NGO legal framework and social contracting
Marieta Dimitrova, Lawyer, expert in social contracting and antidiscrimination
Ivan Georgiev, Lawyer, expert in NGO legal framework since November 2011.
Hermína Emirian, NGOBG.INFO – editor

Board of Trustees:

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Ralitsa Velichkova, Ex-officio Member (Director of BCNL).

STATUS OF BULGARIA'S CIVIL SOCIETY

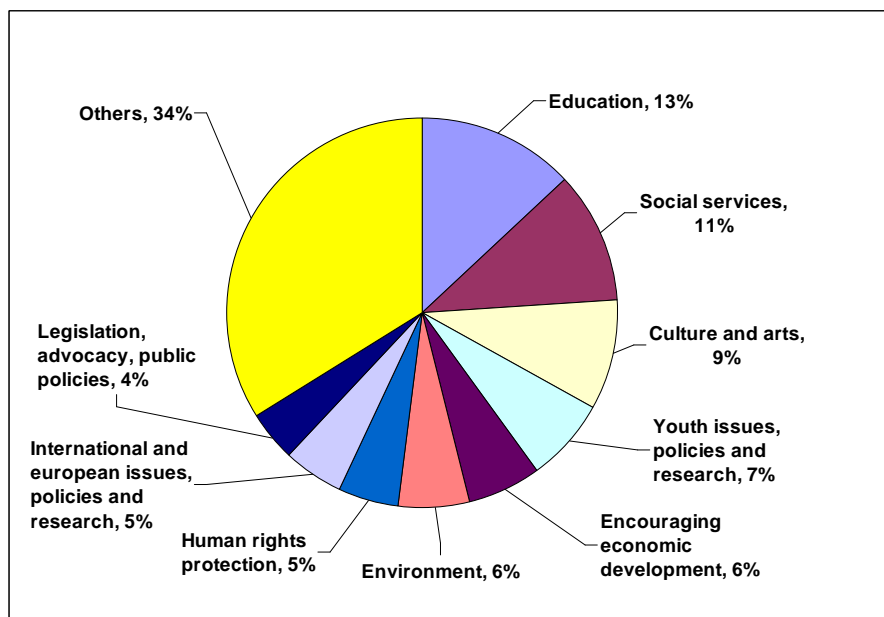
In March 2011, the Bulgarian Center for Not-for-Profit Law conducted a survey among the active NGOs in Bulgaria to identify the status of civil society and the problems facing NGOs and their operations. 80 organizations from across the country took part in the survey and while it is not representative, its findings are indicative of the status of Bulgaria's NGOs.

The main group of NGOs (38.3 %) includes those with annual budgets of up to BGN 5,000. Overall, 85% of the NGOs have budgets of less than BGN 100,000. NGOs are mainly supported by donors and subsidies (more than 51%). If, however, we separate the state donors from the others, we will see that almost one-third of NGO funds come from the state (at the national and local level). While business operations account to almost 10% of NGO revenues, less than 25 % of NGOs perform such operations.

Which are the main sources of NGO support:

- Operational programs (through ministries) – 16.2%
- International donors – 12%
- Membership fee – 11.1%
- State budget subsidies – 10.4%
- Business operations – 9.6%
- Donations by the business – 9%
- Donations by natural persons – 7.8%
- Local budget subsidies – 5.6%
- European Union (directly from Brussels) – 3.8%
- Bulgarian NGOs – 3.6%
- Charity – 3.4%
- Other – 6.8 %

If we look at the most common areas of NGO operations, we will see that these are education and social services¹. This is completely logical since these are the areas offering the biggest opportunities for funds mobilization. For example, the social contracting mechanism has been active in the social area since 2003. The chart also shows the percentage proportions of the various types of organizations.



¹ The analysis is based on areas of operations of NGOs registered in www.ngobg.info.

What are the issues?

According to the aforementioned survey conducted by BCNL², the key issue pointed by more than 72% of respondents is the lack of funds for accomplishing organizations' goals. Second comes the issue of staff turnover (14.8%).

The survey also indicates NGOs' attitude toward the state. None of the respondents thinks that NGOs are sufficiently involved in the process of legislation/strategy drafting; more than 47% think they are not involved at all. Moreover, 90% of respondents believe the state should have a national strategy for NGO development.

Respondents answered the question "What is the first thing to change in the state policy?" as follows:

- **50.6% - the mechanism for direct state funding of NGOs**
- **15.6% - drafting a national strategy**
- **15.6% - NGO involvement in strategy and legislation drafting**
- **11.7% - a specialized unit for interaction with NGOs**

State funding for NGOs

The direct state funding mechanism is one of the issues that the BCNL has attempted to address. In January 2011, we finalized the evaluation of the subsidies provided to NGOs in the period 1991 – 2010 whose focus was on subsidies provided over the last 10 years. The entire analysis and the recommendations were published online at <http://www.bcnl.org/bg/articles/969-оценка-на-механизма-за-разпределяне-на-средства-от-бюджета-на.html>.

One of the key evaluation findings is that Bulgaria has no clear-cut state policy for interaction with NGOs. Such a policy is needed in order to specify the principles of interaction between the state and the NGO sector, as well as to identify the priorities the state needs to finance.

It should be developed following a wide consultation process with NGOs. Another recommendation says the percentage of competition based funding within the general subsidy should grow and be fixed to at least 20% with the tendency of reaching a 50:50 ratio in the mid-term (within 5 years) and a predominant competition based funding in the long run.

In the period of presenting evaluation findings, the 2011 subsidy competition was launched. In May 2011, the preliminary results were announced. Again, a number of serious issues were identified, e.g. a delay of the publishing of application guidelines (which resulted in a short application deadline) and the fact that the committee proposed that only six projects amounting to just over BGN 200,000 be funded (with BGN 750,000 envisaged in the budget). Along with the problems, there are also positive signals – for the first time, the project evaluation committee has published the minutes of its decision, thereby providing a clear indication of the overall number of applicants and the number of applicants shortlisted after the administrative review that submitted all the required documents. In addition, for the first time a score system has been used so that the weight of each project evaluation criterion can be clear.

² A survey conducted by BCNL in March 2011 among 80 NGOs from across the country.

However, despite the positive signals, the state did not take into account our proposals; just the opposite – the 2012 State Budget Act abolishes completely the competition based principle of state funds allocation. BCNL was one of the initiators of the campaign for keeping the competition based funding supported by more than 160 NGOs in less than a week. Despite these efforts, the National Assembly approved the proposals by the Ministry of Finance. Thus, for the first time since 2005, the state will not announce a competition for funding project proposals by public-benefit NGOs.

NGO Sustainability Index

The issue of funding is transparent also in the findings of the NGO Sustainability Index published annually by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). In 2011, the Bulgarian Center for Not-for-Profit Law coordinated the work on the Index for Bulgaria. 2010 scores show that the overall evaluation for Bulgaria in 2010 dropped to 3.3 (1 being the highest and 7 – the lowest score), which is the worst result for us over the last 10 years. The deteriorated financial sustainability of NGOs is the main reason for the country's worse overall score. This indicator places Bulgaria behind all other newly-adopted EU members and behind Ukraine and Croatia (holding an equal ranking with Macedonia). Compared to the 2008 score, our 2010 score is lower by 0.4, which is a dramatic deterioration according to the methodology of the Index.

BULGARIAN NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS INFORMATION PORTAL



BULGARIAN NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS
INFORMATION PORTAL

NGO

The Bulgarian Center for Not-for-Profit Law maintains the Bulgarian Non-governmental Organizations Information Portal at www.ngobg.info. As at December 2011, more than 5,350 NGOs were registered in the portal. This means that since the portal launch in February 2010, more than 500 new organizations have joined it voluntarily and created their profiles.

In 2011, we presented the first awards of the Information Portal as follows:

Most frequently visited NGO profile:

1. **Thirst for Life Foundation**, (Sliven) – more than 500 unique hits;
2. **Tulip Foundation** (Sofia) – more than 400 unique hits;
3. **SOS Children's Villages Bulgaria** (Sofia) – more than 350 unique hits.

NGOs with the biggest number of publications:

1. **Bulgarian Donors Forum** (Sofia) – 38 publications;
2. **Workshop for Civic Initiatives Foundation** (Sofia) – 27 publications;
3. **National Network for Children** (Sofia) – 22 publications.

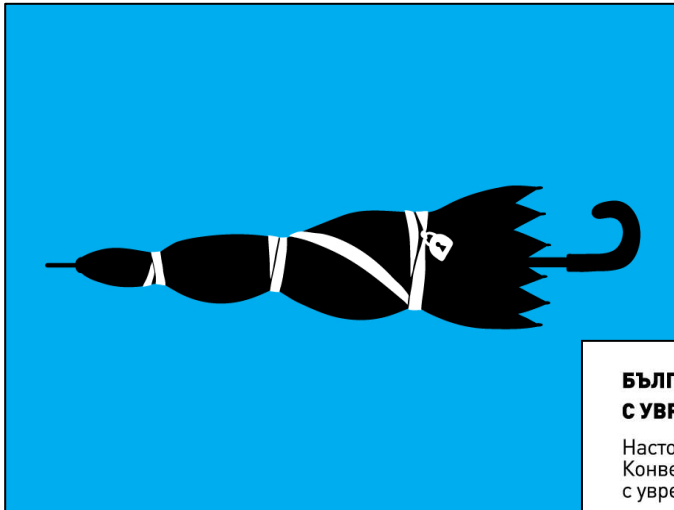
In 2011, the portal team introduced some changes to make the website even more useful and attractive:

- All registered NGOs can upload news;
- New functionalities for publishing job and volunteer ads;
- An updated legislation section with more than 240 Q&As on NGOs;
- A new section for NGO campaigns and petitions.

A look at the portal in 2011:

- Total number of hits – 190,000 unique hits (520 unique hits a day);
- Countries from which the portal was visited more than 1,500 times – Bulgaria, USA, Germany and the UK;
- NGO profiles with more than 100 hits – 190;
- NGO profiles with more than 50 hits – 650;
- Most frequently visited pages: Jobs and Volunteers, Funding, Search Engine;
- Number of free-of-charge websites created by NGOs – 80;
- Publications by users – more than 400;
- Newsletter subscribers – more than 3,900.

THE UN CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES



Over the last year, one of BCNL leading activities was to encourage the process of ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

In order to promote the Convention, BCNL prepared various information materials and initiated numerous events. With the support of the Bulgarian Association for Persons with Intellectual Disabilities (BAPID), we produced

brochures on the Convention in various formats – a reader friendly text, a Braille version and an audio recording, and we distributed them among disabled people across the country. Through the fame cards network, 12,000 cards were distributed in Sofia, Plovdiv, Burgas, Varna and Stara Zagora.

БЪЛГАРИЯ ПРИЗНАВА ПРАВТА НА ХОРАТА С УВРЕЖДЕНИЯ, **НО ИМ ПРЕЧИ ДА ГИ ПОЛЗВАТ!**

Настоявам България да ратифицира Конвенцията на ООН за правата на хората с увреждания незабавно!

Своите мнения тука и изпратете тази картичка.

Подпис:

Кампания на Български център за нестопанско право

Тази картичка е изготвена по проект „Самостоятелност и отговорност: истинското бъдеще за хората с увреждания“, изпълнен от Български център за нестопанско право и подкрепен с грант от Фондация Отворено общество.

The present card is prepared as part of the project "Capability and Responsibility: True Prospects for People with Disabilities", implemented by the Bulgarian Center for Not-for-Profit Law and supported by a grant from the Open Society Foundations.

Министерски съвет

1594 София

бул. „Дондуков“ №1

дизайн: Росица Ралева, стрийк Експресизм, 2011

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As part of the information campaign, we created the website <http://www.equalrights.bcnl.org> where the latest updated information about the process of ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, interesting materials and events can be found.

Кампанията за ратификация на

нцията на ООН за правата на хората с увреждания ще се обсъжда в пленарна зала. 18 януари 2012 | Социалн

- Начало
- Новини
- Конвенция и Допълнителен протокол
- Анализи и презентации
- Събития
- Брошури и статии
- Банери

ПОДКРЕПИ СЕГА !

КАМПАНИЯ ЗА РАТИФИКАЦИЯ НА КОНВЕНЦИЯТА НА ООН ЗА ПРАВТА НА ХОРАТА С УВРЕЖДЕНИЯ

Ние считаме, че нашата страна следва да предприеме реални стъпки за изпълнение на поетите с подписването на Конвенцията ангажименти и да я ратифицира. Ако Вие също споделяте това, можете да се присъедините към нашите усилия като свалите **един от банерите на кампанията** над текста и линк към настоящата страница и ги публикувате на Вашата интернет страница.

Целта на настоящата страница е да предоставя полезна и актуална информация относно Конвенция за правата на хората с увреждания (UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities), приета от Организацията на обединените нации през 2006 г. и процеса на ратификацията ѝ от страна на Република България.

Република България подписа Конвенцията за правата на хората с увреждания през 2007 г., но все още не я е ратифицирала. До момента близо 100 държави от целия свят са ратифицирали Конвенцията. На 23 декември 2010 г. Европейският съюз също се присъедини към Конвенцията, с което се задължава да предвиди ефективни мерки и механизми за гарантиране на равнопоставеността на хората с увреждания в дейността на своите институции.

Настоящата страница е създадена в рамките на проект „Самостоятелност и отговорност: истинското бъдеще за хората с увреждания“, подкрепен с грант на Фондация Отворено общество.

АКТУАЛНО

- България ратифицира Конвенцията на ООН за правата на хората с увреждания
- На 26 януари (четвъртък) законопроектът за ратификация на конвенцията на ООН за правата на хората с увреждания ще се обсъжда в пленарна зала.
- Социалната комисия в Парламента ще обсъжда проекта на закон за ратификация на Конвенцията на ООН за правата на хората с увреждания

КОНТАКТИ

Фондация Български център за нестопанско право

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ул. „Добруджа“ No 6, ет.1
(02) 981-66-17, (02) 988-81-66
info@bcnl.org

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We invited Mr. Klaus Lahwitz, President of Inclusion International, who presented the international experience in relation to the ratification of the Convention before representatives of government institutions and NGOs. Participants in the discussion included Ms. Valentina Simeonova, Deputy Minister of Labor and Social Policy, Mr. Konstantin Penchev, Ombudsman of the Republic of Bulgaria, MPs, etc.



BCNL took part in the organization of a National Conference dedicated to the Convention and provided an opportunity for a broader discussion on the need of ratification. The event was organized by the European Parliament Member Mr. Metin Kazak.

Discussion participants included: Ms. Aneli Chobanova, Member of the Commission for Protection against Discrimination; Mr. Mincho Koralski, Executive Director of the Agency for Disabled People; Mr. Hussein Ismaili, Deputy Ombudsman; Ms. Nadezhda Harizanova, Expert at the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy; Mr. Damian Tatch, Member of the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.



BCNL initiated two regional meetings in Stara Zagora and Varna where the Convention and the reasons why it needs to be ratified in Bulgaria were presented. Local media and NGOs from Kazanluk, Stara Zagora, Varna, Dobrich and Shumen took part in the events.

We organized a work visit to Berlin, Germany, for a group of representatives of government institutions with a key role for the ratification. The visit aimed to present the German experience in implementing the Convention and in particular the regulation of specific support measures for the individual exercise of disabled peoples' rights. Meetings with representatives of the Federal Ministry of Justice, the Federal Ministry of Labor and Social Policy and the German Institute for Human Rights (the monitoring body under the Convention in Germany) were held.



Along with the need of ratifying the Convention, BCNL presented the changes

that need to take place in the Bulgarian legislation regarding the correct implementation of the international treaty in the areas of judicial disability and appointing guardians and trustees. An overview of the Bulgarian legislation and its compliance with the requirements of the Convention and a comparative legal analysis of both support mechanisms for disabled persons and national mechanisms for monitoring and control of the implementation of the Convention were made.

The discussed and entirely new for the Bulgarian context idea of “supported decision making” calls for a new approach with regard to acknowledging the option for persons with intellectual or mental disabilities to exercise their rights independently.

Therefore, the main changes that need to be initiated to mark the beginning of the reform process include as follows:

- **Eliminate the option for total deprivation of legal capacity of disabled persons;**
- **Envisage alternative forms of supporting disabled persons in exercising their rights independently;**
- **Create guarantees for respecting disabled person’s personal will and preferences within the procedure of restricting legal capacity.**

As a result of our efforts and the support of our partners – the Bulgarian Association for Persons with Intellectual Disabilities (BAPID), the Bulgarian Helsinki Committee (BHC), the Center for Independent Living (CIL) – on 21 December 2011, the Council of Ministers decided to make a proposal to the Parliament to ratify the Convention.

VOLUNTEERING

The Bulgarian Center for Not-for-Profit Law focused its efforts throughout the year on the drafting and adoption of a Bulgarian Volunteering Act. The initiative for the adoption of such a piece of legislation was launched already in 2006 when BCNL, supported by a group of NGOs working with volunteers, drafted a bill. In 2008, while more than 150 organizations supported the campaign for the adoption of such a law, it was not adopted.

Why is a Volunteering Act important?

The survey conducted by BCNL shows that as few as 11% of respondent NGOs have never used volunteers while 45% work with volunteers on a permanent basis. This goes to show that volunteers are a key resource for NGOs. According to respondents, the main issues facing volunteering are as follows:

- **Lack of traditions – 58%;**
- **Lack of legislative framework – 52%;**
- **Lack of state policy – 44%;**
- **Lack of public recognition – 40%.**

In 2011, the Ministry of Culture was appointed national coordinator of the year of volunteering. In March 2011, a joint working group was set up to draft a bill. It is of paramount importance to note that the NGOs participated in the working group on an equal footing and their number was equal to the number of government institutions. Moreover, the NGOs appointed their participants independently. BCNL organized the campaign for the selection of NGO representatives in the working group. As a result, 18 NGOs stated their willingness to take part in it, 7 of which were selected and the others received regular information about ongoing activities.

In November, a bill was drafted and published on the website of the Ministry of Culture (as well as at www.ngobg.info and www.bcnl.org) for public consultations. The submitted proposals will be discussed in



January 2012 and then the draft is to be approved by the Council of Ministers and the National Assembly. At the final conference dedicated to the European year of volunteering and held in November 2011, EU Commissioner Kristalina Georgieva highlighted the importance of adopting a volunteering law and Minister Vezhdi Rashidov reconfirmed the commitment made by his Ministry to back the bill in the Council of Ministers and the National Assembly.

CITIZENS DECIDE

Over the past year, the BCNL team continued working on the topic of civic participation in decision making. Our experts conducted an analysis of existing practices in a number of European countries related to policies targeted at disabled people. At meetings with representatives of NGOs of disabled people, the identified good practices were presented and discussed as opportunities for improving the consultation process in our country.

Our ideas of legitimate and transparent involvement of NGO representatives in advisory councils were reflected in the selection of new members of the National Child Protection Council. With the support of BCNL experts, amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the National Child Protection Council were made, thereby enabling NGOs active in this area to nominate and elect the future members of the Council. The new rules were put in practice and the current members of the National Council from the NGO quota were elected in compliance with the new mechanism.



In view of enhancing civic participation at the local level, our experts proposed changes to the municipal rules of procedure of a number of municipalities. Following the local elections, the municipalities of Troyan, Gabrovo and Lovech amended their municipal rules of procedure, allowing for more active involvement of NGOs in the operations of municipal councils.



The Civic Participation Forum (CPF) is an independent and non-institutionalized platform for common action of its members – Bulgarian NGOs aiming to enhance the direct participation of civil society in the political decision making process locally and nationally and improve the interaction of the NGO sector with public authorities. As at December 2011, the CPF membership consisted of 100 NGOs from across the country. The Bulgarian Center for Not-for-Profit Law is a member of the CPF Coordination Council and coordinates the activities of the working group for interaction with institutions at the local and national level.

In 2011, the CPF continued its work on the development of the Bulgaria 2020 Strategy and its representatives took part in various working groups at ministries to identify the main goals of the strategy. The CPF also monitored the process of adoption of national rules in view of the entry into force of the Regulation on the European Citizens' Initiative in April 2012.

NGO RESOURCE CENTER

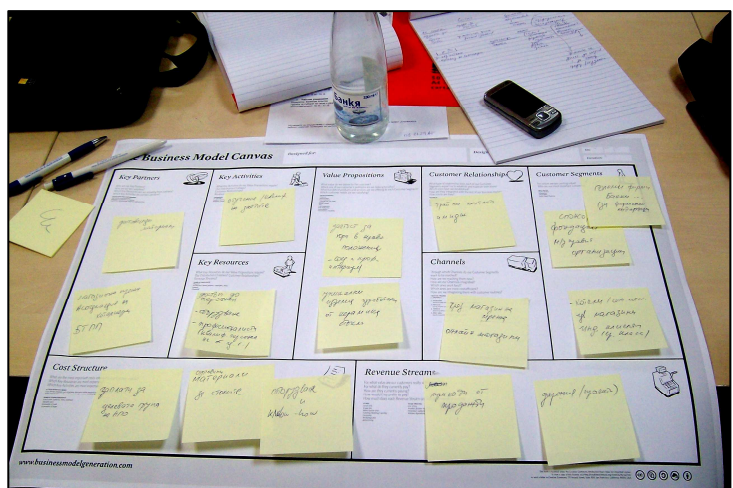
Training

In 2011, BCNL conducted a series of trainings for NGO representatives from across the country. We organized three trainings in “*Legal Requirements and Practical Questions about Operations of Associations and Foundations*” and three trainings in “*Business Operations of Non-Profit Legal Entities*”. The trainings took place in Veliko Tarnovo, Hisar and Sofia and were attended by 180 participants. The series also included two trainings in “*Fundraising: from Strategic Planning to Individual Development*” conducted in Varna and Sofia by Mr. Balazs Sator, Executive Director of the Civil Society Development Foundation, Hungary.

In June, BCNL experts organized a training course in *NGO legal framework and social service provision for patient NGOs* as part of a program implemented by the New Leaders Foundation.

In July 2011, BCNL together with the Program and Analytical Center for European Law Foundation (PACEL) launched a program for support of NGOs willing to implement mission-related business operations. 38 out of 58 applicants were selected to take part in a *specialized business planning training* conducted in Varna and Sofia.

In addition to the trainings, the program includes provision of technical and methodological assistance to the selected NGOs in designing business plans for their own ideas of business activities. In early 2012, it was planned that the designed business plans would be evaluated by a specially appointed committee and awards would be presented to the best business plans.



Legal assistance

BCNL experts continued the tradition of providing legal advice in the realm of NGOs.

In 2011, BCNL experts provided more than 360 consultations to more than 334 NGOs on issues related to NGO legal and tax framework, social service provision, including legal support for registration in court and in the Central Register of the Ministry of Justice.

Publications and analyses



In 2011, BCNL published three booklets as part of the “Questions and Answers” series:

- Non-Profit Legal Entities Act: Questions and Answers;
- Taxation of Non-Profit Legal Entities: Questions and Answers;
- Business Operations of Non-Profit Legal Entities: Questions and Answers.

The booklets aim to answer the most frequently asked questions related to the legal status and activities of NGOs in Bulgaria as per the existing Bulgarian legislation.

As part of our initiative for amending the state subsidy allocation mechanisms for NGOs, BCNL provided a review of EU funding practices in the publication “Grant Funding to NGOs through EU Public Funds”. This analysis was conducted based on documentation review and a questionnaire sent to the European Commission with whose support information from individual member countries about NGO funding mechanisms utilizing public funds was received. The text of the analysis can be found at <http://www.bcnl.org/bg/articles/972-финансиране-за-нпо-от-ес-2011.html>.

BCNL also conducted an analysis of NGO state funding models. It describes methods and mechanisms for NGO support implemented by individual countries, mostly in Central and Eastern Europe. The entire analysis can be found at <http://www.bcnl.org/bg/articles/971-сравнителен-анализ-на-държавно-финансиране-за-неправителствени.html>.

INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVES WITH BCNL INVOLVEMENT

In June 2011, BCNL organized a study visit for a delegation from Belarus aiming to present the Bulgarian social contracting model to the participants. The delegation consisted of six local authority representatives from Belarus. Meetings with experts at the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy, the State Child Protection Agency, the Social Assistance Agency, Sofia Municipality, Lovech Municipality and representatives of social service providing NGOs were held.

In 2011, BCNL was represented at many other international conferences and initiatives. Our experts took part as lecturers in conferences on the legal framework of civil society in Moldova, Russia, Hungary, Tunisia, Albania, Kazakhstan, Sweden, Mongolia, etc

On 28 – 29 June 2011, Lyuben Panov took part in the public discussion held in Tunisia on the draft Associations Act which is one of the four laws adopted by the temporary government in Tunisia prior to the elections in October. This is probably the first public discussion on legislation in Tunisia's history.

In August 2011, Lyuben Panov was invited to Armenia to review the legal framework for associations and foundations in the country. As a result of the meetings held, a report with recommendations was compiled and presented to the Ministry of Justice and other institutions. The visit was also in response to the restrictive legislative amendments proposed by the government and suspended as a result of the analysis.

On 22 – 23 June 2011, the European Center for Not-for-Profit Law in Budapest organized an international conference (in relation to Hungary's presidency of the EU) on the cooperation between NGOs and the state, strategies for interaction between the sectors and exchange of experience on this topic. The forum reconfirmed that Bulgaria lags behind most countries in Central and Eastern Europe in its state policy (and funding) toward NGOs. Almost all countries have their strategies for interaction with or development of civil society, an office/team for cooperation with NGOs or a state fund/foundation supporting NGOs.

ViabilityNet

Over the past year, BCNL became part of the ViabilityNet network. ViabilityNet is a group composed of five leading organizations from Central and Eastern Europe: ARC (Romania), Partners for Democratic Change (Slovakia), the VIA Foundation (Czech Republic) and NIOK (Hungary). The idea behind the ViabilityNet program is to help its member organizations by supporting them in the process of their organizational development and in the development of a product beneficial and indispensable to other NGOs in the respective countries.

World NGO forum in Stockholm

On 21 – 24 August, the Global Forum on Civil Society Law took place in Stockholm, Sweden. It was organized by our partner – the International Center for Not-for-Profit Law (USA). The Forum was held for the second time since 2005 and is the biggest event on NGO development and NGO legal framework at the global level. Two BCNL representatives, Lyuben Panov and Ralitsa Velichkova, were invited to take part in it. The Forum was extremely useful in providing specific information about the development of legislation in areas like public funding, cooperation between NGOs and the state, etc



As a follow-up to the Global Forum on Civil Society Law, on 1 – 2 December 2011, a *Regional Forum on Civil Society Law* took place in Almaty, Kazakhstan. Lyuben Panov (BCNL) was invited to participate in the event as an expert.









Pro-bono forum in Berlin

On 15 – 19 November 2011, the Pro-Bono Forum took place in Berlin. It aimed to gather representatives of leading law firms in Europe and the U.S., and NGO representatives with the purpose of establishing contacts and a basis for future cooperation. The intention of the forum is to promote the provision of pro-bono legal assistance to civic organizations targeted at the protection of their rights and interests. For the second consecutive year, a BCNL representative took part in the forum and showcased BCNL activities focused on the provision of pro-bono legal advice to Bulgarian NGOs.

FUNDING

We would like to thank our donors, colleagues and partners with whom we have worked with in the past year for the support and trust!

Projects, funding, donors

Donor	Project	Project period	Amount spent on the project in 2011 (BGN)
 <p>Trust for Civil Society in Central and Eastern Europe</p>	www.ngobg.info: from database to web portal	January 2011 – August 2012	81,113.11
  <p>Trust for Civil Society in Central and Eastern Europe</p> <p>Center for Independent Living</p>	Transparency for a better disability policy process – participation of disabled people in the policy process.	January 2011 – Mai 2012	8,050.96
 <p>OPEN SOCIETY FOUNDATIONS</p> <p>Open Society Institute, Switzerland</p>	Capability and Responsibility: True Prospects for People with Disabilities	December 2010 – Mai 2012	97,589.40
 <p>AMERICA FOR BULGARIA FOUNDATION</p>	Profits for Non-Profits: Unleashing the Hidden Potential of Bulgarian NGOs	October 2010 – April 2012	187,616.99
 <p>OPEN SOCIETY INSTITUTE SOFIA</p>	Budget subsidies for NGOs: analyses and recommendations	June 2010 – August 2011	9,003.91
<p>B T D The Balkan Trust for Democracy</p> <p>A PROJECT OF THE GERMAN MARSHALL FUND</p>  <p>association KNOWLEDGE</p>	Civic Participation Initiative	September 2011 – June 2012	2,520.25
 <p>OPEN SOCIETY INSTITUTE SOFIA</p> <p>BCAF Bulgarian Charities Aid Foundation</p>	For quality and accessible services for children with cerebral palsy	Mai 2010 – February 2011	3,083.62