

A Stronger Civil Society in Tajikistan through Novel Trainings and Technology



140 staff from
70 CSOs



35 training days



Online platform
www.ngo.tj

Supported through the Accountability Fund administered by the Embassy of the Netherlands in Astana, the **Eurasia Foundation of Central Asia (EFCA) - Tajikistan** worked in partnership with three local and international experts to develop and implement a nuanced, high-quality, and practice-based training program for 140 personnel from 70 civil society organizations (CSOs) in 7 locations across Tajikistan. First and foremost, the project activities improved the capacity of Tajik CSOs — particularly those working to empower vulnerable communities — to **influence state decision-making processes** at the local and national level. In the long term, this will render the government more accountable to CSOs and the public, and improve the quality of legislation and service delivery. EFCA-Tajikistan guaranteed the sustainability of the project by developing and maintaining an **online platform** with training materials crowdsourced from CSOs, international NGOs and financial institutions, and government agencies for local CSOs to draw upon in the future, as they seek to expand their knowledge and capabilities in the civil society space.



To empower CSOs across Tajikistan to better lobby and engage government bodies on legislative and policy matters, EFCA Tajikistan worked on balancing unilateral decision-making and improving government accountability. The project is divided into two main parts. First, 140 participants from 70 CSOs participate in intensive 5-day training courses across 7 locations in Tajikistan. We prioritize CSOs that represent the interests of under-served and vulnerable groups.



The training included the following five sessions:

- Laws of the Republic of Tajikistan - the updated CSO (re)registration law; the role of CSOs in civic life in the Republic of Tajikistan (and specific laws that define it); formal/informal constraints on CSO activity in the Republic of Tajikistan.
- Formal & informal power structures in the Republic of Tajikistan: introduction to 'stakeholder mapping', with a focus on varying structures and dynamics at the township, district, provincial and national levels.
- Persuasion & communication: the etiquette of CSO-Government dialogue; avoiding pitfalls in government engagement; the importance of a professional (up-to-date) public image.
- Building long-term relationships with state institutions: professionalism in formal and informal settings; building relationships that outlast personal connections in an institution.
- Developing Project Proposals: developing projects; seeking buy-in from relevant state organs; understanding international donors' perspectives.



Second, EFCA-Tajikistan developed and managed an online, CSO-oriented platform to host training materials and allow other CSOs to upload their own materials — including reports, databases and training modules — in exchange for access to the entire resource centre, thus ensuring the continued relevance of the platform even after the project term. In line with our goal of building strategic relationships amongst CSOs and government stakeholders, the platform will be accessible and to ensure sustainability, EFCA-Tajikistan is digitising its own existing resources, and managing the platform during and beyond the project period.