An Active Role of Civil Society in the Public Consultations for the 2017 Albanian Budget for Children and Young People

The Albanian Coalition for Child Education (ACCE) leads the Process of Public Consultations between Civil Society Organizations and Ministries Concerning the National Budget

For the first time in Albania, Civil Society Organizations succeeded in initiating a process of consultations with the Ministries directly involved in issues related to children and young people in the country.

The two main sessions of the consultation were attended by the Albanian Coalition for Child Education, Children’s Human Right Centre of Albania and Albanian National Youth Network, while the official representation of the government was attained through the representative of the Ministry of Education and Sports, and the Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth. These consultations were attended also by representatives of the Parliament, UNICEF, Save the
Children, the Council of Europe, Youth NGOs in addition to eminent education and budget experts.

In this aspect, it is of special importance the consultation with the public and civil society organizations of the new budget for 2017, the challenges faced by public institutions and civil society organizations to support children and young people in need, and implementation of national strategies and policies in their respective fields.

A dialogue to address the needs where more budget needs to be allocated was initiated, which is of great importance, knowing that children and young people in Albania represent 55.4% of the population, and is one of the countries with the youngest rate of population in Europe.

The Public Consultation, put emphasis on the specifics of this budget, and its impact on child rights issues and youth services. It also provided a platform for dialogue between the government and Civil Society Organizations in budget related issues, which allows for the presentation and discussion of the Civil Society demands on this regard.

It is true that since 2013, the Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth and the Ministry of Education and Sport have undertaken a series of important reforms, which have directly impacted the lives of children and young people, but it is true too that this reforms on the social care services, child protection, pre-university education, including schools as community centers, and the establishments of new youth centers, bring along a series of financing demands.