

NGOs

As Health Services Providers in Bulgaria

Campaign for Legislative Change

Partners:

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Problem Area

- **Healthcare Institutions registered as commercial companies or cooperatives**
- **Healthcare Institutions network needs restructuring**
- **Upcoming privatization of the Healthcare Institutions**
- **Financing**

Regulatory Framework for NGOs

- **Registration in public or private benefit**
- **Right to carry out economic activities**
- **No distribution of profit**
- **Property after liquidation**

Aims of the Campaign

- **To explore appropriate approaches for healthcare institutions to be registered as public benefit NGOs**
- **To initiate debate on health related legislation change**
- **To draft amendments to the Law on Healthcare Institutions**
- **To lobby for the adoption of the amendments by the Parliament**

Activities

- **Research on the capacity of NGOs**
- **Comparative legal analysis**
- **Drafting amendments to the Law on Healthcare institutions**
- **Publishing and distribution**
- **Organizing a conference**
- **Meetings with decision makers**

Factors of Success

- **Positive examples in the EU member states and the US**
- **Maximum public information**
- **Professional and open debate**

Challenges Faced

- **Mistrust and suspicion towards NGOs**
- **NGOs considered as an instrument for misuse of their property after restructuring**
- **Closed circle of experts**
- **Fear of NGOs as competitors for state financing**
- **Changing legal environment**

Meeting the Challenges

- **Wide information dissemination**
- **Personal meetings**
- **Different experts' opinions considered**
- **Additional technical assistance to stakeholders**

Lessons Learned

- **Acceptance as experts and not just as lobbyists**
- **The importance of preliminary analysis**
- **Timing**
- **Legislation is an ongoing process**

Major Achievements

- **Amendments to the Law for Healthcare Institutions submitted to the Parliament**
- **Relevant experts involved in a wide consultative process**
- **Amendments supported by a caucus of MPs from all floor groups**
- **Agreement with MPs to resubmit the amendments**