

## **THE ALBANIAN ASSEMBLY HAS APPROVED THE LAW**

### **"ON THE LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVE OF THE ELECTORS IN THE REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA"**

The Albanian Assembly approved the law "On the legislative initiative of the electors in the Republic of Albania", on 18<sup>th</sup> of July 2019, during the last meeting of the current parliamentary session. This law has foreseen the procedures for the exercise of the citizens' legislative initiative provided by the Constitution of Albania, aiming for their participation in decision-making through submitting draft laws in the Assembly.

Assisted by the experts of Venice Commission and ODHIR, this law harmonizes the Albanian Legislation with the European Union's legislative initiative and the most recent international standards in this field.

The law creates various tools and opportunities for individuals, who exercise the right to vote and for the civil society organizations, in order to propose new laws. It establishes fruitful facilities for making the initiative public, for collecting 20 000 signatures from the electors and presenting it to the Assembly. The collection of the signatures is electronically provided by the law.

The Central Electoral Commission will be responsible for checking the list of citizens' signatures, before the law is presented to the Parliament. The procedures provided by the law are a guarantee for this check and will be an obstacle for procedures that were wrongly followed in the past, when signatures were verified in the laboratory of the Ministry of Interior.

The Center for Legal Civic Initiatives would like to thank all of its partners, who contributed to the drafting and during the consultation of this law, especially the Open Society Foundation for Albania, the civil society organizations and the Universities of Tirana, Shkodra and Vlora. We would like to thank the members of the Parliament, who proposed the law and contributed to its improvement, as well as all the institutions that have taken part in the consultation process for this law.