



## Black Sea NGO Newsletter, No.2, May 2009

The [Black Sea NGO Newsletter](#) is a direct outcome of last year's Black Sea NGO Forum. It aims to bring more information on each other's activities around the year as well as on other NGO-related issues that can help improve our work and common understanding.

In case you have information on current and future activities, events, partnerships and funding opportunities that you would like to share, please send it to the Black Sea NGO Newsletter team: [forum@BlackSeaNGO.org](mailto:forum@BlackSeaNGO.org)

The Secretariat of the Black Sea NGO Forum is currently ensured by the Civil Society Development Foundation FDSC: [www.fdsc.ro](http://www.fdsc.ro)  
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## ***Time to Meet: Black Sea NGO Forum 2009***

The second edition of the Black Sea NGO Forum will take place in Bucharest, Romania, between 29 - 31 October 2009. The motto of this edition is "*NGOs in Times of Crisis*".



NGOs from the Black Sea Basin are invited to propose themes for discussion. Please send your suggestions to [forum@BlackSeaNGO.org](mailto:forum@BlackSeaNGO.org) until June 26, 2009.

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## ***Initiatives in the Region: Black Sea Peacebuilding Platform Initiative Reports Progress***

The initiative for the establishment of a Black Sea Peacebuilding Platform was formally launched at the Black Sea NGO Forum 2008 by a Working Group made up of civil society organizations from across the Black Sea Region.

It emerged as a broad-based, shared initiative linking NGOs and civil society organizations working in peacebuilding, conflict transformation, violence prevention and conflict analysis across the Black Sea Region with support from partner institutions in neighboring countries and internationally. The initiative is intended at establishing a sustainable, inclusive, regionally owned civil society peacebuilding network in the Black Sea Region.

A *Black Sea Peacebuilding two-week Design and Planning Session* was held in Cluj-Napoca, Romania, between 11 - 22 May 2009. As a result a process of stakeholder meetings and round tables has developed across the Region and EU to include a broader range of civil society organizations and institutes to ensure that the Black Sea Peacebuilding Platform is developed through a broad-based, transparent, participatory regional engagement of organizations, institutions and all participating stakeholders. The process of consultations and stakeholder engagement will continue throughout 2009. The results of the session are now being shared broadly to invite input, feedback, comments and suggestions from the broader regional initiative. Participants in the BSPP initiative have expressed a clear focus on cooperation and inclusion in relation to existing thematic BSR networks and initiatives, to avoid duplication and competition.

Feedback, comments, suggestions, and expressions of interest in the Black Sea Peacebuilding Platform are welcome and may be sent to: Ms. Corina Şimon (Liaison Point): [corina.simon@patrir.ro](mailto:corina.simon@patrir.ro) who will forward them to all organizations which have expressed interest and joined the initiative thus far.

Also available: Black Sea Peacebuilding Progress Report May 2009 (attached to the newsletter).

**Call for Contributions: 2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference on the Organic Sector Development in Central/Eastern European and Central Asian Countries (Tbilisi, Georgia)**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> International conference on the organic sector development in Central/Eastern European and Central Asian countries will take place in Tbilisi, Georgia from 10th to 11th of September, 2009.



September 10-11, 2009, Georgia State Agriculture University, Tbilisi, Georgia

The conference will encompass various aspects of agricultural production focusing on practical experiences and research of plant production, wild collection, horticulture, animal husbandry and especially viticulture and wine making. The new EU Regulation on organic farming as well as certification aspects - including others then organic (e.g. Fair-trade) - will present the second focus of the conference. The third focus will include domestic and export market experiences and developments.

The conference is organized by the Biological Farming Association "Elkana", Georgian State Agrarian University (Georgia), Organic Federation of Ukraine (Ukraine) and Organic Services GmbH (Germany).

You are invited to submit your proposal and become a speaker at the conference, the [call for contributions](#) being open until June 15, 2009.

For more information on the Conference visit <http://organicconference.elkana.org.ge/about.php?lang=eng>

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**Open call: EVS CulturalLearn project, Republic of Moldova**

The International Committee of Citizen Diplomacy (ICCD) launches a call to young people to participate in a nine months active non-formal educational and rich intercultural learning experience in Moldova.



CulturalLearn takes place in the framework of the Euro House Network and the programme "Activation Moldova Civil Society from the Inside" that is run jointly with five city halls. Role and tasks of the volunteer will consist in organizing the implementation of the events in the cultural field, such as festivals, celebrations, exhibitions of art, photographers, music, theater, dances, movies etc. The project is taking place between 15 November 2009 - 15 September 2010 in Koshnita, Rezina, Lozova and Grigoriopol.

For more information you can contact Mr. Igor Barakov (EVS Program Coordinator):  
Phone/Fax: +373 22 731402; [evs@civildiplomacy.org](mailto:evs@civildiplomacy.org) or consult the document attached to the newsletter (*Open CALL for volunteers CulturalLearn*).

## **Partnership Opportunities: Efxini Poli (Greece) Is Looking for Partners for the JOP Black Sea 2007-2013**

Efxini Poli is looking for partners in order to apply for the 1<sup>st</sup> Call for Proposals of the Joint Operational Programme Black Sea 2007-2013.

Efxini Poli (Greece) is a network of 30 Municipalities for Social, Cultural, Tourist, Environmental and Agricultural Development. Seven out of the 30 Municipalities are situated in the Greek eligible area of the programme. The network has been active in the realization and implementation of national, interregional and European projects for more than 14 years in all fields of local development.



In case you are developing a project idea and you are searching for Greek partners and if Efxini Poli's profile matches your project idea, please contact Ms. Sofia Skarveli (European Projects Coordinator): [epolis@efxini.gr](mailto:epolis@efxini.gr)

For more information about Efxini Poli visit <http://www.efxini.gr/index.php?la=2> or consult the document attached to the newsletter (*Efxini Poli Presentation*).

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### **Funding Opportunities:**

#### **Joint Operational Programme "BLACK SEA 2007-2013"**

**News:** The Financing Agreements with Armenia and Turkey have already been signed. Other Financing Agreements with Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, Russian Federation, and Ukraine are still to be signed.

**Deadline for submission of proposals for the 1<sup>st</sup> Call for Proposals:** 31st of August 2009  
The Black Sea JOP covers three priorities. Each of the three priorities is further broken down in a number of Measures, as presented in the following table:

Priority 1: Supporting cross border partnerships for economic and social development based on common resources

Priority 2: Sharing resources and competencies for environmental protection and conservation

Priority 3: Supporting cultural and educational networks for the establishment of a common cultural environment in the Basin

More details and guidelines for applicants: [http://www.blacksea-cbc.net/index.php?page=DOCUMENTS\\_GUIDELINES](http://www.blacksea-cbc.net/index.php?page=DOCUMENTS_GUIDELINES)

### **Youth in Action Programme: Action 3 - Youth in the World**

'Youth in the World' seeks to deepen mutual understanding, tolerance and intercultural awareness among young people within the Union and beyond.

This Action supports various projects with EU Partner Countries, with a special focus on its neighbouring regions - Eastern Europe and Caucasus, the Mediterranean region, and South-East Europe. Sub-action 'Co-operation with EU neighbours' focuses on developing ties with partner countries that are part of the European Neighbourhood Policy, along with the Russian Federation and countries from South-East Europe. Reinforcing youth co-operation in these regions will ultimately also contribute to boosting democracy and civil society in the involved countries, as well as to empowering young people to play an active role in their societies. Youth exchanges for young people aged between 13 and 25 are covered under this sub-action, along with training and networking projects.

For more information visit:

[http://ec.europa.eu/youth/youth-in-action-programme/doc86\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/youth/youth-in-action-programme/doc86_en.htm)

### **Black Sea Trust for Regional Cooperation**

Black Sea Trust for Regional Cooperation is inviting proposals from organizations and institutions in the countries of the Wider Black Sea Region on the Trust's three programs: civic participation, cross-border initiatives and Eastern Links. Applicants may find descriptions of the Trust's programs here:

[http://www.gmfus.org/template/page.cfm?page\\_id=324](http://www.gmfus.org/template/page.cfm?page_id=324)

### **The East East: Partnership Beyond Borders Program**

The East East: Partnership Beyond Borders Program is implemented by the Soros foundations. Applications are received and reviewed by Open Society Institute Assistance Foundation-Armenia, Open Society Institute Assistance Foundation-Azerbaijan, Open Society Institute-Sofia, Open Society Georgia Foundation, Soros Foundation-Moldova, Open Society Foundation-Romania, International Renaissance Foundation-Ukraine, Open Society Institute Assistance Foundation-Turkey. For detailed information on how to apply please contact these organizations. A full list of links and contacts can be found here:

<http://www.soros.org/about/foundations>