



## Black Sea NGO Newsletter, No.4, July-August 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)

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## **Black Sea NGO Forum 2009: Workshops Have Been Defined**

Based on the proposals that the Secretariat of the Forum received from you and considering the recommendations made during the first edition of the event, a list of topics has been drawn up and is available at the Workshops section on the website: [www.BlackSeaNGO.org](http://www.BlackSeaNGO.org).



4 **thematic workshops** have been almost defined:

- Democracy: Fair elections;
- Human rights: Freedom of the media / Freedom of expression;
- Environment: Climate change;
- Children rights: Violence against children / Social services

A fifth thematic workshop still depends on suggestions from the participants.

For the **cross-cutting workshops**, there are 6 major fields of interest:

- Civil Society Development;
- Advocacy & Policy;
- Financial Sustainability & Fundraising;
- Public image & Relations with mass media;
- Self regulation & Legitimacy of the sector;
- Volunteering & Public participation

Based on your proposals and suggestions, the final 5 workshops will be defined.

Please continue to support us with your feedback and suggestions sent at: [forum@BlackSeaNGO.org](mailto:forum@BlackSeaNGO.org)

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### **News: Country Headlines**

#### **Armenia**

- In a joint statement during Group of Eight summit in Italy, U.S. President Barack Obama, France's Nicolas Sarkozy, and Russia's Dmitry Medvedev called on Armenian and Azerbaijani leaders to resolve their differences and move towards a final accord on the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh region.

- On 17 July, Armenia's Serzh Sarkisian and Azerbaijan's Ilham Aliyev met Kremlin chief Dmitry Medvedev.
- The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Minsk Group cochairs met in Krakow on July 24 to update the proposals for a solution to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

## **Azerbaijan**

- Temporary victory for Azerbaijani NGOs: On June 30, the Azerbaijani parliament adopted a law expected to impose harsh restrictions on nongovernmental organizations, without its harshest amendments.
- Abuses against prominent Azerbaijani youth activists condemned by world community.

## **Georgia**

- Georgian and Russian officials met for security talks in Geneva on July 1 – the sixth such meeting since their five-day war in August 2009.
- At mid-July, The EU "troika" led by Swedish Foreign Minister Carl Bildt, flanked by top officials from the EU's Council of Ministers and the European Commission, toured Georgia, Azerbaijan, and Armenia.
- EU foreign ministers meeting in Brussels on July 27 agreed to extend the mandate of the cease-fire monitoring mission in Georgia until September 14, 2010.
- ITAR-TASS news agency, July 23: the Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Grigory Karasin stated that Russia will take "concrete measures" to prevent Georgia from rearming.

## **Moldova**

- Moldova's opposition parties won an absolute majority in the early parliamentary elections on July 29

## **Russia**

- Amnesty International: "Stability could return to Russia's North Caucasus only if human rights violations were thoroughly investigated".
- Prominent Russian human rights activist Natalya Estemirova was found dead hours after being kidnapped in the North Caucasus region on July 15.

- Albert Pchelintsev, the leader of the public movement Against Corruption and Deception, was shot and severely wounded in an attack in the Russian city of Khimki, near Moscow, on his way home on July 25.

## Turkey

- Turkish NGOs spoke out against the difficulties of civil organizations in Turkey.

## Ukraine

- 2,000 Crimean Tatars have protested to demand the restitution of land that they lost when they or their relatives were deported more than 60 years ago.

Read the entire articles on the Black Sea NGO website: [www.BlackSeaNGO.org](http://www.BlackSeaNGO.org).

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## **News: EC Allocates €40 Mio to Multi-Country Projects in Eastern Europe and Southern Caucasus**

The assistance package of €40mio will fund several programmes in different areas such as the strengthening of culture policies and civil society, support of SME networks, border management, air quality governance and disaster preparedness. All the projects to be financed with this programme will have a regional scope as they each will each benefit at least two of the seven partner states along the Eastern border of the EU (Russia, Ukraine, Republic of Moldova, Belarus, Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia).

The assistance package will address the following areas: culture, SMEs, environment and border and migration management. It has been committed from the 2009 EC budget in the framework of the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI).

Article compiled by:  
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Source:  
European Commission:  
<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/09/1084&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

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## **News: EC Allocates €70 Million for Key Investment Projects in the EU's Neighbourhood**

The Neighbourhood Investment Facility (NIF), a key instrument of the intensified European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP), will benefit in 2009 from a €70 million contribution by the European Commission. These resources will allow neighboring partner countries to leverage increased funding for major investment projects in areas such as energy, transport and environment, and also SME development and the social sector.

Officially launched in May 2008, the NIF was created in order to strengthen Community and Member States' grant support for lending operations carried out by European multilateral and bilateral development finance institutions in ENP partner countries.

The 15 projects approved by NIF in its first year of operation have a total grant contribution of €71 million. In addition to improvement of basic infrastructures the NIF also provided support to some major investments in the environment sector, directly or indirectly tackling common environmental challenges.

NIF operations focus on countries which have already signed an ENP Action Plan with the EU i.e. Armenia, Azerbaijan, Egypt, Georgia, Jordan, Lebanon, Republic of Moldova, Morocco, the Palestinian Occupied Territories, Tunisia and Ukraine. On a case by case basis other neighbouring countries may also benefit from NIF grant support, in particular in case of projects of cross border or regional nature to which the EU attaches particular interest.

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Source:

European Commission:

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/09/1164&language=EN>

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## **News: Moldova Receives Grant from SIDA**

Moldova is going to receive a grant of about 1.5 million EUR from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) for the energy sector.



The grant will be used to draft feasibility surveys and projects of reconstructing the engineering systems of

some institutions in order to continue the Energy Project II, etc. Signing the Moldovan-Swedish specific agreement is a precondition for the entrance into force of the additional financing agreement for the Energy Project II worth about 10 million USD.

Over the last two years, SDA has backed the development and modernization of Moldova's energy system.

Article compiled by:

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Source:

Moldpres News Agency: <http://www.moldpres.md/default.asp?Lang=en&ID=114081>

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### **News: UMM Launches Newsletter 'Local News from Turkey'**

The Union of Municipalities of the Marmara Region has published the first issue of its newsletter entitled 'Local News from Turkey'. The newsletter provides information on cities around Turkey but also news on international institutions, policies or initiatives.



The newsletter is available at

[http://www.marmara.gov.tr/eng\\_bulten/001/bulten.html](http://www.marmara.gov.tr/eng_bulten/001/bulten.html).

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### **Keep informed: More News in the Black Sea Region**

The news section of the Black Sea NGO Forum website is updated daily with the latest news from the Region: <http://www.blackseango.org/pagini/news.php>.

If you have news that you consider relevant and would like to share with colleagues in the Black Sea Region please write to us: [forum@blackseango.org](mailto:forum@blackseango.org).

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**Future Events: Caucasus Environmental Infrastructure & Green Energy Investment & Finance Summit 2009**

Euroconvention Conferences organizes on September 8-9, 2009 the Caucasus Environmental Infrastructure & Green Energy Investment & Finance Summit 2009 in Tbilisi (Georgia).



The 2-day international event is designed for finance, investors, businessmen, SMEs and public sector looking at infrastructure/green energy opportunities in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia. It follows the official launch of the EU Eastern Partnership process and will focus on:

- Key infrastructure investment opportunities
- Environment compliant infrastructure / energy development
- Renewable energy sector boom
- Financing the next decade needs
- Regional integration and market regulation
- IT/e-Government developments
- Focus on mining

For more information visit:

[http://www.euroconvention.com/events.php?action=details&event\\_id=13](http://www.euroconvention.com/events.php?action=details&event_id=13)

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**Future Events: IV<sup>th</sup> Eurasian Energy Forum KazEnergy**

KazEenergy Association (Republic of Kazakhstan) organizes the IV<sup>th</sup> Eurasian Energy Forum KazEnergy in Astana, Republic of Kazakhstan between 24-25 September 2009.



The key theme of the Forum will be a discussion of cooperation and the role of strategic alliances in the energy sector amid changing global environment. Discussions will concentrate on different development options of the world power industry in the post-crisis period and the role Kazakhstan may play in this process. The dialogue will involve the leading world power majors, heads of state bodies of countries-exporters and transit-shippers of hydrocarbons and experts of the leading analytical centers.

A detailed leaflet of the Forum can be downloaded from:  
[http://www.ubcce.org/md/Eurasian\\_Forum\\_24-25.09.09.pdf](http://www.ubcce.org/md/Eurasian_Forum_24-25.09.09.pdf)  
For more information please write to: [forum@kazenergy.com](mailto:forum@kazenergy.com).

Information provided by:  
Murat Zongur (Union of Black Sea and Caspian Confederation of Enterprises)  
[mzongur@tusiad.org](mailto:mzongur@tusiad.org)

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**Partnership Opportunities: Society for Fair Trade (Czech Republic) is looking for sharing experience with NGOs from the Balkans and Black Sea Region**

Society for Fair Trade and Development Education is a Czech NGO based in Brno having as the main objective to raise awareness of the Czech public about working, social, environmental and economical conditions of production in the global South and about fair trade as one of the positive alternatives.



Their goal is to establish a Central and Eastern Europe Fair Trade Association as an informal platform of organizations working on the topics of fair trade and responsible consumption. In this sense they would like to share experience with NGOs from the Balkans and Black Sea region and further develop the concept of the platform with potentially interested organizations in Black Sea region.

If interested please contact Mr. Ludek Šerba (Project and Networking Coordinator):  
[ludek@fairtrade.cz](mailto:ludek@fairtrade.cz) or visit [www.fairtrade.cz](http://www.fairtrade.cz).

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**Funding Opportunities: Latest News**

**Black Sea Joint Operational Programme 2007-2013**

- First **Newsletter** of the Black Sea JOP has been launched this July. It is available at: [http://www.blacksea-cbc.net/user/file/Newsletter/01\\_NL.pdf](http://www.blacksea-cbc.net/user/file/Newsletter/01_NL.pdf)
- Georgia has become the second country to sign the **Financing Agreement** in the frame of the Black Sea JOP on August 6. The first country to sign was Armenia.  
<http://www.blacksea-cbc.net/index.php?page=NEWS>

- A section of **Frequently Asked Questions** has been initiated on the website of the Black Sea JOP: <http://www.blacksea-cbc.net/index.php?page=FAQ>

### **More information**

More information on **funding opportunities** is now available on the Black Sea NGO Forum website: <http://www.blackseango.org/pagini/funding-opportunities-in-the-region.php>