

CONSOLIDATING SOCIAL NGOS from Republic of Moldova



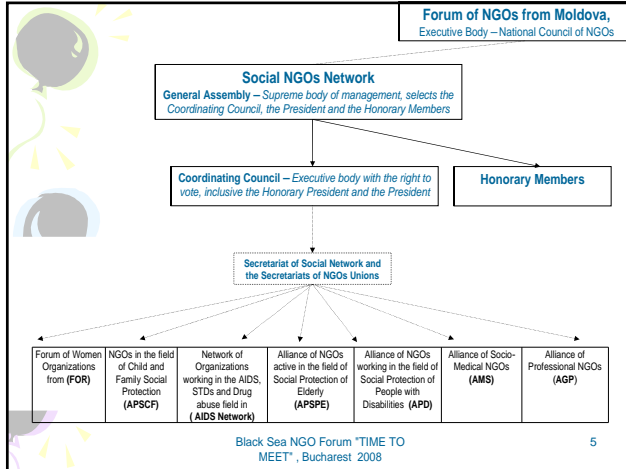
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The Social NGOs Network is a voluntary non-profit organisation that provides a platform for NGOs alliances and interest groups active in the social field in order to improve the well-being and quality of life of all people in Moldova.

- The Social NGOs Network was created in August 2002 at the initiative of the Association for Promoting Social Assistance and supported initially by the Department for International Development of the British Government in Chisinau (DFID)
- NGOs become members of the Network on the basis of their agreement to adhere to its principles and are then approved by the Coordinating Council and/or the General Assembly of the Network.
- The Social NGOs Network has 404 NGOs members

Main challenges

- I. Advocacy and cooperation
- II. Access to quality alternative social services
- III. Strong Alliances for a strong Network
- IV. Social Network capacities and sustainability



Communication mechanism

- Coordinating Council of Social NGOs Networks is formed from one representative of each NGO Union (for +50 NGOs members +one member in the CC) and meets once per month
- Coordinating Council of each NGO Union meets once per month

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Transparency and information

- From **Coordinating Council of Social NGOs Network** – to stakeholders
- From **Secretariat of Social NGOs Network** – to each NGO Union
- From each **NGO Union** – to their members – through their Secretariat
- From each **NGO Union Secretariat**– to **Coordinating Council of Social NGOs Network**

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Lessons learnt – success factors (I)

- Identification of expectancies and needs (ex: questionnaire)
- Replacement of the needs for funds (if not possible to fulfill) with **information** where they can find funds; **training, study visits, links** with other institutions
- Permanent up-date with information regarding current activities (cultivate feeling of team, *ex yahooogroup etc.*)
- Elaboration of a Strategic Plan (2005-2007) through a large participatory process
- Update of the Strategic Plan for 2008-2010

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Lessons learnt – success factors (II)

- Opportunity to cooperate in **major fields** (*procurement of social services by the state; Law on Public Utility / 2%*), & **narrow areas** through NGO Unions (*children and women rights, access of disabled persons etc.*)
- Motivated Secretariats for each NGO Union
- Competent and credible Honorary members
- Involvement of donors as Honorary Members and their active participation in our meetings and events
- Promote the image of NGOs (*break the existing stereotypes regarding NGOs*)
- Stressing that the Network represents the voice of 404 NGOs!

As result:

- Prompt comments on law drafts
- Lobby to include strategic problems on Ministries or Parliament agenda
- Knowledge and experience transfer between various social sectors
- Replication of best practices (*some NGOs Union initiated Cooperation Agreements with a Ministry, following the example of their colleagues*)
- More focused of donors agenda in the social field

At the moment:

- Social NGOs Network activity has no funds for coordination activities
- Therefore there are less common for the whole Social Network activities
- Secretariats of NGOs Unions are very active, working for their NGOs members

In conclusion...

Networks are like governments: some are efficient, other – not, depending on:

- Human resources
- Money
- Credibility



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FOR YOUR ATTENTION!**

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