AGENDA

The Black Sea NGO Forum
“Enabling Environment for CSOs: Towards a Strategy of Civil Society in the Black Sea Region”
7th edition, 8th-10th of December 2014
Hotel President, Kiev, Ukraine

DAY I (December 8th)

8:30 – 9:00 Registration of participants

9:00 – 10:00 Opening Session of the 7th Edition

Moderator: Olivia Baciu, President, The Romanian NGDO Platform – FOND

Gheorghe Magheru, Political Director, The Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Vsevolod Chentsov, Director of the European Union Department, The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine - TBC
Nils Jansons, Deputy Head of Division, Division for Eastern Partnership, regional cooperation & OSCE, European External Action Service (EEAS)
Alexander Hug, Deputy Chief Monitor, OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine

10:00 – 11:30 Plenary Session I: Towards a Strategy of Civil Society in the Black Sea Region

Facilitator: Valentin Burada, Former Vice-President, The Romanian NGDO Platform – FOND

Gheorghe Magheru, Political Director, The Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Carmen Falkenberg-Ambrosio, Head of Section, Regional Programmes Neighbourhood East DG Development and Cooperation, European Commission
Paul Ivan, Policy Analyst, European Policy Center
Dimitrios Triantaphyllou, Chair, Department of International Relations / Director, Center for International and European Studies (CIES), Kadir Has University, Istanbul

11:30 – 12:00 Coffee break
**Plenary Session II:** Introducing the concept of enabling environment and presenting an overview on the implementation of the 2nd indicator of the Busan Partnership

**Moderator:** Zuzana Sladkova, AidWatch / Financing for Development Coordinator, The European NGO Confederation for Relief and Development – CONCORD

Justin Kilcullen, Co-chair, CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness - CPDE
Brian Tomlinson, Executive Director, AidWatch Canada / CPDE Working Group on CSO Enabling Environment
Natalia Bourjaily, Vice-President, Eurasia Programme, International Center for Not-For-Profit Law (ICNL)
Tanja Hafner Ademi, Executive Director, Balkan Civil Society Development Network (BCSDN)
Thomas Hansen, Programme Manager, Civil Society and Local Authorities Unit, DG Development and Cooperation, European Commission

**13:30 – 14:30** Lunch break

**14:30 – 16:00** Parallel Working Groups: The current state of the enabling environment for civil society organizations in the Black Sea Region (I)

Assessing the three specific dimensions (based on the analysis made by the CPDE Working Group) of CSOs enabling environment:

- Universally accepted human rights and freedoms affecting CSOs (recognising these rights and freedoms, ensuring a supportive legal framework; respecting the rights of specific groups);
- Policy influencing (providing CSOs with spaces for dialogue and debate in order to influence decision-making);
- Donor - CSOs relationships (encouraging partnerships and participation of CSOs from partner countries, greater predictability in allocating funds, ensuring core funding, avoiding dependency on external funds).

**PART I: National Multi-stakeholder Working Groups from the Black Sea region identifying their current national context regarding the three dimensions (5 groups).**

**16:00 - 16:15** Coffee break

**16:15 – 17:00** Plenary Session III: Presenting the current national contexts on enabling environment for civil society

**17:30 – 19:00** Side event: Freedom of speech & Media in the Black Sea Region

**19:30** Dinner “Chymatski Shliah” Restaurant
DAY II (December 9th)

9:00 – 10:30  **Parallel Working Groups:** The current state of the enabling environment for civil society organizations in the Black Sea Region (II)

*Carmen Falkenberg-Ambrosio*, Head of Section, Regional Programmes Neighbourhood East
DG Development and Cooperation, European Commission

PART II: Mixed Working Groups identifying the common needs and challenges at regional level regarding the three dimensions (5 groups).

10:30 – 12:00  **Plenary Session IV:** Identified common needs and challenges for the civil society sector in the Black Sea region ("food for thought" from the consultations)

*Reporting conclusions from the Mixed Working Groups*

Perspectives and reactions:

*Justin Kilcullen*, Co-chair, CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness – CPDE

*Brian Tomlinson*, Executive Director, AidWatch Canada / CPDE Working Group on CSO Enabling Environment

*Andris Kesteris*, Principal Adviser, Civil Society and Inter-institutional Relations, DG Enlargement, European Commission

*Carmen Falkenberg-Ambrosio*, Head of Section, Regional Programmes Neighbourhood East
DG Development and Cooperation, European Commission

12:00 – 12:30  Coffee break

12:30 - 14:00  **Parallel Thematic Workshops:** Input from different sectors on ways to improve the civil society enabling environment (I)

**DEMOCRACY & HUMAN RIGHTS**

**ENVIRONMENT & MARTIME POLICY**

**SOCIAL: CHILD PROTECTION**

14:00 – 15:00  Lunch break

15:00 – 16:30  **Parallel Thematic Workshops:** Input from different sectors on ways to improve the civil society enabling environment (II)

**LOCAL DEVELOPMENT**

**YOUTH AND EDUCATION**

**SOCIAL ECONOMY**
16:30 – 16:45  Coffee break

16:45 – 17:30  Plenary Session V: Identified priorities & solutions for the future

19:30 -  Dinner “Opanas” Restaurant

DAY III (December, 10th)

9:00 – 10:30  Plenary Session VI: Donors’ involvement in supporting CSOs in the Black Sea region

Moderator: Dmitry Kounine, Board Member, Dutch “Platform Europe” / Member, EPAN Working Group CONCORD

Katarzyna Jarosiewicz-Wargan, Project Development, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, Project Coordination Unit, OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR)

Bianca Baumler, Outreach and Knowledge Management Officer, European Endowment for Democracy

Viktoriya Taranenko, Senior Expert, Odessa Branch of the Joint Technical Secretariat, Romania – Ukraine – Republic of Moldova Cross Border Cooperation Programme

Martins Murnieks, Programme Officer, Black Sea Trust for Regional Cooperation

Cristina Buzașu, Civil Society Manager, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)

10:30 – 11:00  Coffee break

11:00 – 12:30  Plenary Session VII: The Way Forward in Creating a Strategy of Civil Society in the Black Sea Region

Moderator: Natalia Budescu, Executive Director, Association of Cross-Border Cooperation “Lower Danube Euroregion” / Board member, The Romanian NGDO Platform - FOND

Olivia Baciu, President, The Romanian NGDO Platform – FOND

Adela Rusu, Executive Director, The Romanian NGDO Platform - FOND

12:30 – 13:30  Lunch break

13:30 – 15:00  Market place for projects & partners

19:30 - Dinner Hotel President