"Enabling Environment for CSOs:
Towards a Strategy of Civil Society in the Black Sea Region"

Detailed Conference Report

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This report was elaborated by the Romanian NGDO Platform FOND.

"Enabling Environment for CSOs:
Towards a Strategy of Civil Society in the Black Sea Region"

DAY I, 8th of December 2014
OPENING SESSION

The 7th edition of the Black Sea NGO Forum, held on 8th -10th of December 2014, was organized by The Romanian NGDO Platform (FOND) with the financial support of the European Commission, the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme - Regional Centre for Europe and Central Asia, CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness - CPDE and local support of the Ukrainian National Platform of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum.

The event was officially opened by **Olivia Baciu**, *FOND President*, who emphasized the Forum as a space which gathers intelligence from the region and good practices. It was for the first time when the Forum was organized outside of Romania, which reflects an important step in strengthening the regional ownership of this event. **This edition represented a** very important step in **redesigning the strategic approach of how the BSF should look like in the future.**

Gheorghe Magheru, *Political Director from The Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs* highlighted that the event has become a benchmark in the region and the initiative of organizing it in Kyiv is a strong message of support for the Ukrainian people and their aspirations. This Forum is important because it creates a genuine framework for dialogue in the region and it complements other similar initiatives like the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum. It is also very important to continue organising this event because **CSOs have a vital role in achieving democracy and stability in the Black Sea area.**

The process of strategic planning of the Forum started in June 2014 with a brainstorming meeting organized in Brussels, which gathered representatives from the European institutions, Romanian MFA, policy experts and participants from the previous editions.

''We need to remain focused and united in order to promote common initiatives, and the EU will continue to support CSOs.''

Nils Jansons, *Deputy Head of Division, Division for Eastern Partnership, regional cooperation & OSCE, European External Action Service (EEAS)* emphasized the European Union's role in supporting CSOs to have a stronger voice. The BSF is by definition flexible and inclusive, has a constructive role and remains very important in the region. The role CSOs play can enhance the will to cooperate - regional cooperation is about working together to tackle challenges.

The roots of this Forum stand from the origins of the Black Sea Synergy initiative launched by the EU in 2007, having as main priority to foster pragmatic regional dialogue. In 2008, the creation of BSF was proposed and now it stands as the proof that the pragmatic dialogue was implemented.

Alexander Hug, *Deputy Chief Monitor, OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine* talked about the OSCE Mission's role in facilitating dialogue and monitoring the implementation of the Minsk Protocol[1]. In Donetsk region the Mission still works in a military environment and tries to normalise the situation in Ukraine. The main issue is that there is still violence in Eastern Ukraine and normalisation seems to be allusive. There is a strong

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[1] The document is available at http://www.osce.org/home/123257

need for political will for reconciliation. **All countries of the Black Sea are committed to achieve security in this region and civil society organizations have a vibrant and active role in this**. OECD stands for a comprehensive security where active civil society can contribute to solving the conflict through dialogue.

Iryna Sushko, *Coordinator of the Working Group on "Democracy, Human Rights, Good Governance and Stability", Ukrainian National Platform of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum* emphasized the need to support reforms in all the countries of the Forum. There are some challenges to be addressed – the liberalisation of the visa regime, security policies, the need to find efficient tools to eliminate propaganda and to protect the economic security of the country.

> *''One key solution is to have a platform for cooperation and to be united.''*

PLENARY SESSION I

Towards a Strategy of Civil Society in the Black Sea Region

Moderator: 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

Gheorghe Magheru, *Political Director, The Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs* emphasized the importance of defining the Black Sea Forum's role in providing knowledge and partnerships based on common values.
BSF has become a well-known and important format for regional cooperation. Between 2012-2014, Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs also supported Romania – Ukraine Civil Society Forum. Bilateral initiatives need to continue to be supported in these 2 countries.
Despite the disparities in the Black Sea area and the challenges – illegal migration, environment problems, ongoing conflict in the Eastern Ukraine, Transnistria and Georgia, there are some common elements. Romania also stands on the Transnistrian issues. As democracy is an ongoing challenge, CSOs need to be very active in this area.

> The role of CSOs is to bring people together and to build trust among citizens, to promote shared values – democracy, human rights, to influence policy making and decisions process, to promote cooperation to address common challenges – environment, social issues, etc.

Carmen Falkenberg-Ambrosio, *Head of Section, Regional Programmes Neighborhood East, DG Development and Cooperation* stated that the European Commission will continue to support the Black Sea Forum in the future which is why it is important to define the future of the BSF. Regarding the current regional context, the relations between countries are not always easy, but still the Black Sea region is seen as a common cooperation space. There are some initiatives of the EU which promote civil society organizations' cooperation like the **Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum[2], the EU – Russia Civil**

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[2] In 2015, the Eastern Partnership will take place in Riga and before the event will be organized a meeting with CSOs, where representatives from the BSF organizing team could participate

Society Forum and NGOs networks active in this part of the world. Ms. Ambrosio than spoke about **the future of the Black Sea NGO Forum,** expressing several **recommendations** regarding its structure (become a more structural framework with stable working groups, regional coordinating bodies and national coordinators) and content (focus on topics of regional interest where the BSF has expertise and can bring an added value; cooperate with other civil society fora to avoid duplication; influence regional policy and raise awareness on CSOs in the region). In addition, Ms. Ambrosio, mentioned a few possible actions in the future:

- ✓ Increase interest and ownership of the Forum in the region and beyond;
- ✓ Increase networking among NGOs – to have formal and informal activities;
- ✓ Reinforce capacity of NGOs participation;
- ✓ Share knowledge and best practices with other CSOs networks;
- ✓ Search for financial support from a variety of sources and work together for the benefit of civil society organizations.

Paul Ivan, *Policy Analyst, European Policy Center*, considers that the international situation affects all the countries in the region and the current situation is described as a new Cold War because there are some similar elements. At the same time, the situation is different from a classical Cold War because the ideological element is missing. Democracy is not a model that can easily be exported. EU has an important role in tackling this difficult situation concerning Russia and Ukraine and defend the principle of territorial integrity.

''As a short term strategy, concentrate the Black Sea Forum on economic and social dialogue, and the political dialogue will follow.''

Dimitrios Triantaphyllou, *Chair, Department of International Relations / Director, Center for International and European Studies (CIES), Kadir Has University,* sees that the dynamic in the region needs to be increased, despite of the existing challenges. There is a need to have Trainer of Trainers (TOTs) and Training of Multipliers (TOMs) activities in this region in order to share experiences within the Black Sea Region and to multiply good practices. It is also very important to focus on **youth education.**

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

Zuzana Zladkova, *AidWatch/ Financing for Development Coordinator, CONCORD* reminded that CPDE was founded in 2012 after the Busan High Level Forum on Development Effectiveness, comprising two former initiatives: Open Forum and BetterAid, and has 3 key pillars – **advocacy on government, enabling environment, how we reach the Busan principles.** CPDE took the lead of monitoring the implementation of indicator no. 2 (related to civil society enabling environment) of the Busan agenda.

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

Democracy is more than elections, it must be build and it will be judged on how it looks in the eyes of the marginalized people. CSO and parliaments must work together because there have in common the fact that they working for the people of the country. The collaboration within CSOs is very important, they must come together, to reinforce the legitimacy, to share intelligence, to hold accountable the political authority. The

''In the Black Sea region it is very important for the civil society to come together. It's about making the most of ourselves, as well as to continue our work without fear, by standing together in solidarity.''

relation between CSOs and donors is very important as well, but there is a need to pay special attention to the people we serve. The enabling environment is critical for the future of democracy and development, it must be seen as an asset. In the **Post-2015 context** it is necessary to secure an enabling environment, but this can be fulfilled only by the cooperation between government and CSOs representatives, which have to engage politically and socially with the society.

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

In his presentation, Mr. Tomlinson introduced the concept of enabling environment for civil society, presented CPDE's monitoring framework for an enabling environment for CSOs[3] and explained why enabling environment is important to CSOs.

> **What is enabling environment?**
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> An enabling environment are the laws, policies, regulations and practices by governments and donors that create the condition under which Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) can maximize their contributions to development and other public goods.

The 3 dimensions of enabling environment taken into consideration in the monitoring process:

- **Universally accepted human rights and freedoms affecting CSOs** (recognising these rights, legal environment, rights of specific groups – minorities, women etc);
- **Policy influencing** (spaces for dialogue and policy influencing, access to information);
- **Empowering CSOs: Donor – CSO relationship**.

Why the enabling environment is important for CSOs?

- ✓ Gives meaning to government recognition of **CSOs as independent development actors in their own right**.
- ✓ Creates the **necessary conditions for CSOs to carry on their activities** to fully realize their highly diverse goals and roles: provision of services; development and sharing of expertise; advocacy to improve public policy & empower the marginalized; defending human rights and sensitising and educating citizens on public policies.
- ✓ Strengthens **CSO effectiveness as actors** promoting global and national public goods.
- ✓ Assures the public space for CSOs in **promoting transparency, effective public policy and accountability** among other government and private sector stakeholders.

Natalia Bourjaily, *Vice-president, Eurasia Programme, International Center for Non-For–Profit Law (ICNL)[4].* ICNL's mission is to empower local stakeholders, facilitate cross-border philanthropy and develop the analytic basis for ICNL's work, and to foster global norms and multilateral engagement. Despite the regional context, there are also some **positive trends** – legislation elaborated

''It is important for the dynamic of the region to take advantage of the main successes, to facilitate peer to peer activities and also to involve Government in our activities.''

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[3] More information regarding the monitoring framework of CPDE is available in Mr. Tomlinson's presentation:
http://www.blackseango.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/Monitoring-the-Implementation-of-an-Enabling-Environment-for-CSOs.pdf.
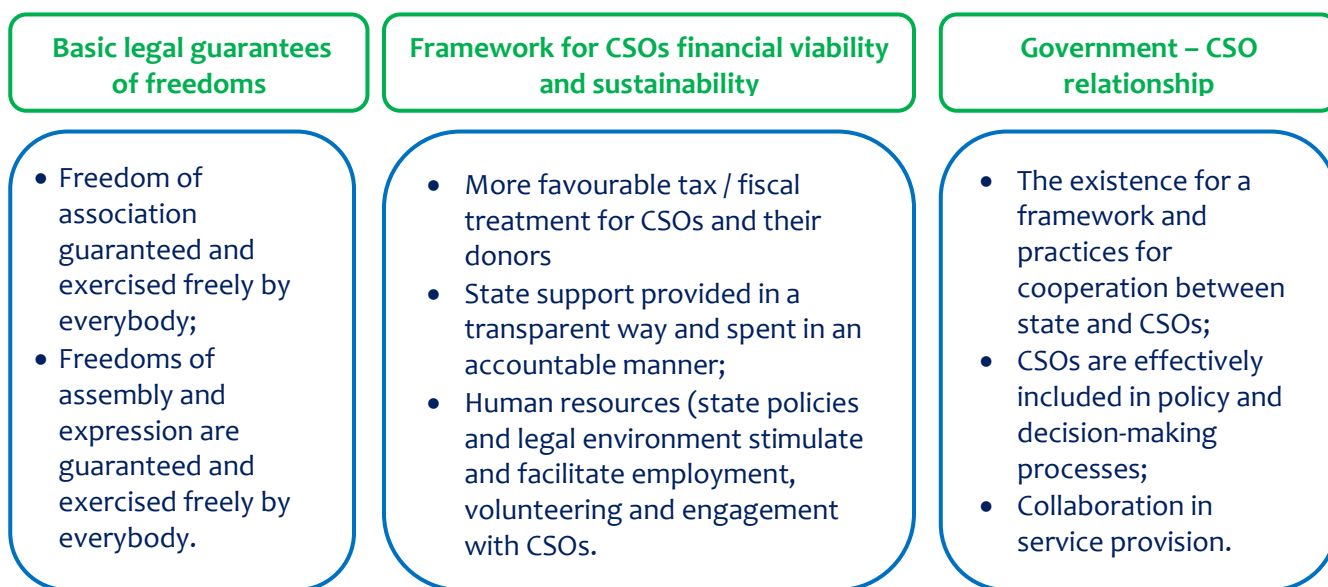[4] More information available at www.icnl.org/about/index.html

with citizen participation or government understanding is improving sustainability of NGOs (E.g.: in **Georgia and Bulgaria**, for instance, the government is interested in promoting legislation on volunteering). In **Azerbaijan**, ICNL, in cooperation with the Ministry of Finance (ICNL provided some recommendations to the government) assisted some NGOs in methods of defending civil society rights. In **Georgia**, ICNL provided assistance in drafting legislation and more than 50% of it was already adopted by the Parliament.

Tanja Hafner Ademi, *Executive Director, Balkan Civil Society Development Network (BCSDN)* shared with the participants the matrix[5] that BCSDN developed in order to monitor the enabling environment of civil society from Enlargement countries (+EU new member states). This initiative is important as it is the first time when the enabling environment is considered defining for the civil society development. It includes existing global, regional and national standards (legislation & practice), but also it defines standards where they are not defined. It covers 15 CSOs from 8 countries (enlargement: Croatia) and emphasized the need for positive change, not only in the legislation.

The matrix has 3 dimensions[6]:

Basic legal guarantees of freedoms	**Framework for CSOs financial viability and sustainability**	**Government – CSO relationship**
• Freedom of association guaranteed and exercised freely by everybody; • Freedoms of assembly and expression are guaranteed and exercised freely by everybody.	• More favourable tax / fiscal treatment for CSOs and their donors • State support provided in a transparent way and spent in an accountable manner; • Human resources (state policies and legal environment stimulate and facilitate employment, volunteering and engagement with CSOs.	• The existence for a framework and practices for cooperation between state and CSOs; • CSOs are effectively included in policy and decision-making processes; • Collaboration in service provision.

Thomas Hansen, *Programme Manager, Civil Society and Local Authorities Unit, DG Development and Cooperation, European Commission*[7]

The EU has launched a process to develop country roadmaps for engagement with civil society in each of its partner countries. The objective is to improve impact, predictability and visibility of EU actions vis-à-vis civil society. They are also meant to trigger coordination and sharing of best practices with Member States and other international actors. Roadmaps include an assessment of the enabling environment in each and every country looking specifically into i) basic legal rights, ii) organizational and financial sustainability and participation in public life. On this background specific EU priorities and actions are set out. Roadmaps are developed by EU Delegations and Member States in close consultation with local CSOs and other stakeholders. Roadmaps have been completed for all of the six countries in the Eastern Partnership while the Roadmap for Russia was still pending.

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[5] For more information, please see www.monitoringmatrix.net
[6] For more information, the presentation of Ms. Hafner-Ademi is available at: http://www.blackseango.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/Monitoring-Matrix-for-Enabling-Environment-BCSDN.pdf
[7] For more about the EU's study case on enabling environment, please visit: www.capacity4dev.ec.europa.eu/policy-forum-development/blog/enabling-environment-case-studies-capacity4dev

	PARALLEL WORKING GROUPS

The current state of the Enabling environment for civil society organizations in the Black Sea region (I&II)

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

	Common challenges	Opportunities
1. Universally accepted human rights and freedoms affecting CSOs	• In most of the countries everything seems to be right on paper (the universal rights are included in the countries constitutions), but in practice there are significant impediments; • There are challenges with the implementation of CSO legislation (registration of CSO, tax regime for CSOs etc); • Lack of incentives from the government, regarding the CSO activity, and lack of legal framework on volunteering; • The registration process of CSOs should be improved, it takes too long and it is subject to corrupt practices of public officials; • Lack of transparency and accountability of the government; • Lack of democratic culture in the Black Sea region; • Low civic participation – it is difficult to work with local people, to mobilize them.	• There is a need for an online system to facilitate CSOs registration country wide and so to support decentralisation; • The legislation should be monitored in each of the countries, using the Monitoring Matrix presented during the Forum.
2. Policy influencing	• Low policy influencing due to lack of cooperation among CSOs and authorities; • Clear mechanisms and structures on paper, but there are difficulties when it comes to implementation; • No institutionalized mechanism for public dialogue (which is more than just consultation). The relationship with political leaders is not institutionalised and depends on individuals (some of them are more favourable towards the CSO, some have CSO background etc.); • Public consultation is only formal and there is virtually no implementation of CSOs' feed-back and recommendations (it depends on the issues and how *"politically sensitive"* they are); • Lack of institutional capacity, lack of expertise and knowledge in the parliament commissions and virtually no advocacy capacity in some countries, due to financial challenges and political barriers. As a result CSOs' running projects have a reduced impact on public policies; • Lack of transparency in the decision making process; • Few CSOs are involved in the policy making	• Sharing experiences and good practices among the countries in the region; • CSOs need to work with political leaders and build partnerships with the government.

		process that usually is formal and fragmented (depending on certain types of ministries, the NGOs involvement is different).	
3. Donor – CSOs relationships		• The grassroots organizations' needs are not fully represented in donor strategies. The priorities are donor driven and CSO have to adjust and not vice-versa; • Lack of funding for non-registered CSOs (civic initiatives etc); • Lack of access to local resources (government funding) especially to CSOs which are not connected with the central power, and restrictions to international funds; • EC grants are given to CSOs by public institutions; • Lack of sustainability of CSOs – most of the money goes in implementing projects, but there is a need to strengthen CSO capacity; • In some countries there is a legal framework which stipulated that a certain percentage from the budget should be given to CSOs, but it is not implemented; • Bigger and stronger CSOs get all the funds and it is difficult for smaller CSOs to compete with them; • CSOs need to be more transparent; • There is a difficulty to use the English language in writing projects – especially for rural CSOs; • Conflicts influence CSO activity and their relation with donors; • In some countries CSOs are considered competitors by the government; • Lack of transparency in setting up government priorities, which creates a burden on receiving funding and on the implementation of the projects; • Difficult to cover the co-financing; • Too much bureaucracy in the reporting procedure.	• Use this type of Forum in order to increase visibility of CSOs, and encourage interaction with governments and donors; • CSOs should form coalitions to connect with donors; • Frequent meetings should be organised to build trust and share best practices; • Continuation of consultations, in order to gather information to stimulate dialogue, put pressure, advocate etc; • Matching priorities – of donors, CSOs and government; • Inclusion of CSOs in defining programmatic priorities.

Side event: Freedom of speech & Media in the Black Sea region

> *Moderator: Ioana Avădani, Executive Director, Center for Independent Journalism , Romania*
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> **Alina Matiş**, Journalist, Gândul.info
> **Petru Macovei**, Executive Director, Association of Independent Press, Republic of Moldova
> **Anar Orujov**, Chairman, Caucasus Media Investigations Center

General trends that affect the freedom of the media in the region:

- ✓ The agenda of the media is often influenced by economic or political interests which affects its credibility;
- ✓ The media in the region is economically vulnerable;
- ✓ Journalists are often multi-tasking and they have no time to focus on their journalistic profession;
- ✓ Journalists are losing their professional identity because everybody can put content on the Internet;
- ✓ Journalism schools are losing credibility as there is a big gap between academics and fieldwork;
- ✓ Add companies have the power to dictate the editorial content;
- ✓ Vulnerable public media and disappearance of local media;
- ✓ Non-media gate keepers - the internet service suppliers, cable operators etc. can decide who's getting what kind of product.

DAY II, 9th December 2014

PLENARY SESSION IV

Identified common needs and challenges for the civil society sector in the Black Sea region (''*food for thought''* from the consultations)

> *Moderator: Justin Kilcullen, Co-chair, CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness - CPDE*
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> **Andris Kesteris,** Principal Adviser, Civil Society and Inter-institutional Relations, DG Enlargement, European Commission
> **Brian Tomlinson**, Executive Director, AidWatch Canada / CPDE Working Group on CSO Enabling Environment
> **Carmen Falkenberg-Ambrosio**, Head of Section, Regional Programmes Neighbourhood East
> DG Development and Cooperation, European Commission

Justin Kilcullen, *Co-chair, CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness – CPDE*, highlighted the idea that the Black Sea Region should tighten the links with CONCORD, as there is a lot to be learned from CSOs in this area. There is a real inspiration and good examples that can be developed with the solidarity of CONCORD, and stay at the basis of a Pan – European platform, to which we can contribute together.

Andris Kesteris, *Principal Adviser, Civil Society and Inter-institutional Relations, DG Enlargement, European Commission* focused its presentation on policy dialogue and capacity building, which he considers very important for the region. There is a strong need to educate the government and authorities regarding human rights. It is also important to understand how CSOs can operate in the enlarged

> *''It is necessary to work with the grassroots organizations and at the same time to create network organizations.''*

region because sometimes they start to perform like political parties which affect their credibility. Regarding the financial support provided by the DG Enlargement, EC avoids launching call for proposals for annual projects, and finances instead multi-annual programmes and capacity building activities.

Brian Tomlinson, *Executive Director, Aid Watch Canada/ CPDE Working Group on CSO Enabling Environment* highlighted the need of having strategies in order to face regional challenges and recommended to include governments in this process. Black Sea NGO Forum could be a relevant space for debates and discussions in order to develop these strategies. Moreover, he recommended to take in account the Istanbul Principals[8] which are very important for development effectiveness: *''CSOs are effective as development actors when they demonstrate a sustained organizational commitment to transparency, multiple accountability, and integrity in their internal operations''*. Respecting the Istanbul Principles is even more important for the Black Sea region, as GONGOs are an important reality that countries have to face and some relevant questions should be raised in order to identify a relevant enabling environment framework, such as *"What is a legitimate CSO?" or "How we demonstrate our effectiveness and accountability?".*

Carmen Falkenberg - Ambrosio, *Head of Section, Regional Programmes Neighbourhood East DG Development and Cooperation, European Commission***,** presented the EC support to civil society in the Black Sea area.

Opportunities in terms of what the EU as a donor could provide:

✓ Capacity development – long term, flexible and demand driven approach: trainings, seminars, workshops, exchange of good practices;
✓ Funding adapted to the local needs;
✓ Coordinated EU actions (roadmaps for engagement with CSOs);

Instruments:

✓ European Neighbourhood Instrument;
✓ European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights ;
✓ Civil Society Organizations and Local Authorities (CSO-LA).

Types of projects supported by the EC:

✓ Multi-stakeholder dialogue and environmental issues;
✓ Involving vulnerable groups in the decision making process;
✓ Supporting media freedom and anti-corruption efforts;
✓ Involving business and CSOs in peace building;
✓ Engaging CSOs in monitoring activities;
✓ Supporting COSs networks and platform.

PARALLEL THEMATIC WORKSHOPS

Input from different sectors on ways to improve the Civil Society Enabling Environment (Part I)

Workshop 1: Democracy & Human Rights

Moderator: *Roxana Albişteanu, Romanian Center for European Policies*
Guest Speakers:
Daria Gaidai, Institute for World Policy, Ukraine
Natalia Belister, Expert of Pylyp Orlyk Institute for Democracy
Resource persons:
Romina Matei, Intercultural Institute from Timişoara
Cosmin Bârzan, Center for Civic Resources

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[8] www.cso-effectiveness.org/IMG/pdf/final_istanbul_cso_development_effectiveness_principles_footnote_december_2010-2.pdf

The Black Sea region faces new challenges and turning points in 2014 with, on the one hand, several countries in the region having made a step closer to the European Union through Association Agreements, including Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreements - and, on the other, the conflict between Russia and Ukraine presenting a serious challenge to European security in the Eastern neighbourhood, while protracted conflicts and closed borders still weaken democratic institutions. In this context, CSOs need to come up with concrete proposals for the adjustment of the Eastern Neighbourhood policy as well as the EU's approach to the Black Sea region; moreover, they need to enhance the cooperation in the field of human rights and democratisation and make it more effective.

Natalia Belitser, *Expert of Pylyp Orlyk Institute for Democracy*, began her presentation by bringing to the participants' attention the violation of all international agreements when it comes to Transnistria, South Ossetia or Crimea (the only case of direct annexation). According to Ms. Belitser, civil society should be more active in the process of solving these crisis, and she made a few proposals to be included in the framework

> *"Now it's time to develop our own consolidated strategy of what can be done, of what exact input of civil society in the BSF region to contribute to settling this crises".*

of the Forum: involving activists in conflict areas in between Forums (through established thematic working groups); discussing the issue of conflicts in the region in an international, rather than a bilateral environment; support field studies in these regions (for example in Crimea); bring to the agenda of the Forum the issue of minorities in conflict areas.

Daria Gaidai, *Institute for World Policy, Ukraine,* focused her presentation on the relations between Romania and Ukraine, both at governmental and non-governmental levels. There are difficult relations between Romania and Ukraine and among CSOs there is almost no relationship at all. In order to improve this aspect, the forum might be a way to change the situation. The first initiatives regarding bilateral relations between Ukraine and Romania started in 2012, concerning the Snake Island dispute, when CSOs met to discuss and to develop some joint projects. The project started by aiming at building dialogue between the 2 countries, even though at the beginning, the relevance of these actions was not that obvious for the Ukrainians. In January 2014, when the context in Kyiv was tensioned, the Ukrainian – Romanian Civic Forum was organised, where experts from Romania decided to come and support Ukraine. In addition, Romania was the first EU country that ratified the Association Agreement with Ukraine.

Results of the workshop discussions:

Needs & challenges specific to context	Recommendations	Possibilities of collaboration
• Providing Black Sea countries with the human rights basics; • Protecting minority groups and including people with disabilities in the public life and discussions; • Working in corrupt political environment, where the rule of law is affected by interests; • Donor funding is not sustainable and predictable; • Local donors have to be cultivated in human rights issues; • There is lack of local dialogue between CSOs before	• Include human rights in school curricula, with a special focus on minorities rights (ethnics, sexual etc); • Develop a strategy of cooperation on Crimea crisis; • Be active and support the joint efforts to address human rights; • Create a *"peace building network"* in the region in order to put pressure on governments; • Put human rights on the international agenda by increasing its visibility;	• Create a platform for cooperation for CSOs in the Black Sea Region, in between the Forums in order to continue collaboration – searching partners from the Black Sea Region, allowing access to social networks, making Black Sea NGOs more visible; • Virtual space to communicate on the Internet; • NGO incubator: for an efficient management, some

approaching donors; • Limited access to funding for smaller emerging NGOs and group initiatives; • No institutional support and burden of co-financing required by many donors; • Lack of holistic approach for human rights; • Inappropriate methodologies to measure the impact and the results of human rights related projects.	• Offer special funding for small NGOs; • Favour long term projects versus short term; • Increase the institutional support; • More flexible call for proposals; • Broader discussion about assessing the human rights projects.	of the more established CSOs could help the young ones to improve their administration activities. This can be done by: exchanging programs between CSOs, people-people activities; NGO MBA: an educational program special designed for the NGO leaders, not only for business management.

Working group 2: Environment and Maritime Policy

Moderator: Natalia Budescu, FOND Board Member, Director, Association for Cross border Cooperation "Lower Danube Euroregion", Romania
Valeriu Ajder, President, Cross-border Cooperation *and* European Integration Agency, Republic of Moldova
Igor Babaian, Coordinator, *Agency* of Sustainable Development and European Integration "Lower Danube" Euroregion, Ukraine
Karine Ohanyan, Program Coordinator, European Integration Association, Armenia

Environment protection is a pre-condition for sustainable development. Sometimes ignored in favour of fast economic development, sometimes underfinanced, sometimes used as a sustainability tools, environmental protection is a way of life, is a MUST for the assuring the FUTURE. Black Sea Basin, as strategic region for development is one of the most active regions in terms of assuming and reaching the environmental protection goals. The workshop is proposing to present a state of the art regarding the environmental protection theme (policy and action) from the point of view of Black Sea Basin (BSB) CSOs, as catalysers in the region.

Valeriu Ajder, *President, Cross-border Cooperation and European Integration Agency, Republic of Moldova* presented the forms in which **NGOs can be involved in regional environmental policies:**

✓ Expert advices and analysis - NGOs can facilitate the access to competing ideas from outside the normal bureaucratic channels;
✓ Networking;
✓ Mobilization of public opinion;
✓ Service provision - NGOs can deliver technical expertise on particular topics;
✓ Monitoring and assessment in environment related fields;
✓ Legitimization of public decision-making mechanisms.

Results of the workshop discussions:

Needs & challenges specific to context	Opportunities
• Not sufficient implementation of international treaties or agreements regarding all the BS countries when it comes to maritime environment policies in the region. Even though we have the Bucharest convention, is not sufficient, as a legal instrument, to	• The existing history of networking within the Black Sea NGO Forum; • Using networks such as the Black Sea NGO Network (based in Bulgaria) to cooperate on environmental issues;

solve the regional problems; • The dissemination of information is burdened by the various languages spoken in the region and the different channels used in communication; • Environmental financing is a challenge in the region; • There is an absence of information regarding specific topics on environment; • Monitoring and maintaining a good ecological state of the environment in the Black Sea region is still a challenge both for government and regional public; • There should be more civic representation in environmental bodies (national or international wide); • Some countries have associations with the EU, but the content is not very clear.	• Encourage sharing experience between CSOs from EU member states and CSOs from EU associated countries CSOs on environmental issues; • EU funding; • Volunteering, in order to maintain relationships and cooperation in the region; • Environmental education; • Strengthening the capacity of CSOs to promote EU environment issues, especially at local level; • Updates on environmental protection: What do we have in the EU member states that can be multiplied in the Black Sea Region? • More involvement of the civil society sector in the region in this domain.

Workshop 2: Social – Child Protection

> *Moderator: Mirela Oprea, General Secretary, Child Pact*
> **Resource persons:**
> **Mariana Ianachevici,** President, The Alliance of active NGO's in the field of Social Protection of Family and Child - APSCF, Republic of Moldova
> **Jaba Nachkebia,** President, Georgian Coalition for Children and Youth
> **Roman Harutyunyan,** Child protection expert, Armenian Child Protection Network
> **Nabil Seyidov,** National coordinator, NGO Alliance Azerbaijan
> **Pavlova Evgenia,** Chairman, All-Ukrainian Foundation for Children's Rights

In the last 20 years, governments in the Black Sea region strived to reform their child protection systems, but reforms remain incomplete. The transition to democratic governance did not create systemic reforms to end violence against children and this is a shameful failure. ChildPact believes that ending violence against children can only be possible if we achieve levels of partnership that have not yet been attempted. Civil society networks are crucial to this endeavour, but CSOs and their networks work in an environment that is not enabling them to have the impact that is required. Networks are particularly vulnerable as victims of a misconception about what matters when making institutional funding and private donation decisions. Networks are seen as 1) bureaucratic structures with un-productive administrative costs that 2) do not offer direct services to children. This hugely flawed reasoning is exposed in ChildPact's Manifesto[9] for Investing in Child Protection Networks. This panel will result in a ChildPact position paper on what is required to build an enabling environment for child rights NGOs and their networks in our region.

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[9] http://www.childpact.org/2014/03/28/childpact-manifesto-for-investing-in-child-protection-networks/

Results of the workshop discussions:

Needs & challenges specific to context	Possible solutions

• All child protection networks have various degrease of political dialogue engagement. The risk for these networks is to be seen as an opposition to governments;
• The relations between networks and donors is difficult because of 2 stigmas:
  ➢ when networks apply for financing some donors are reluctant to support them, because they don't offer concrete social services, but they engage in policy and advocacy;
  ➢ the networks' overhead is considered to be very high (practically the costs are for the staff, office etc.) but if there is a specific need for lobby/advocacy, there should be human resources.
	• Creating a handbook of good governance for the networks in the region;
	• Creating joint networks;
	• Issuing forum resolutions;
	• Engaging donors in budget support and encourage them to work with child protection networks at national level.

Workshop 4: Local Development

> *Moderator: Olivia Baciu, President, The Romanian NGDO Platform – FOND/ Executive Director, Partners Foundation for Local Development (FPDL), Romania*
> *Resource persons:*
> **Daniela Casale** , Director, Partners for Democratic Change International (PDCI) – Brussels, Belgium
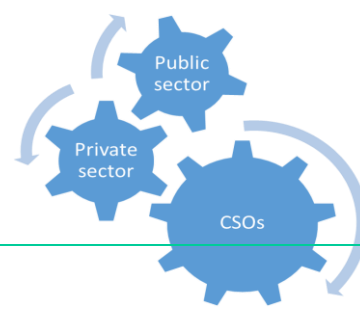> **Thomas Hansen**, Programme Manager, Civil Society and Local Authorities Unit, Directorate General for Development and Cooperation – EuropeAid, European Commission
> **Natalia Budescu**, Association for Cross-Border Cooperation "Lower Danube Euroregion", Romania

Successful local development projects and initiatives are focused on functional and open partnerships between civil society, local authorities, donors and other relevant local actors. Building these important partnerships through an inclusive process exploring the different perspectives of all the actors concerned is an essential step. It reflects the need for providing CSOs with an open space for dialogue and debate in bringing their valuable input and expertise in the decision-making process affecting the community and, thus, one of the fundamental dimensions of a civil society enabling environment.

Daniela Casale, *Director, Partners for Democratic Change International (PDCI) – Brussels, Belgium* presented the activity and approach of Partners for Democratic Change International (PDCI) in local development. PDCI has as field of expertise conflict resolution, civil society development, sustainable development and good governance. Its approach consists of:

✓ Empowering people to be involved in decision making processes and become active citizens, both globally and in their communities.
✓ Support civil society, promoting social entrepreneurship and collective citizen action;
✓ Facilitating dialogues around contentious issues like natural resources management;
✓ Working closely with government institutions to make them more effective and accountable, from local government transparency initiatives, to criminal procedures reforms and security sector reform processes.

Thomas Hansen, *Programme Manager, Civil Society and Local Authorities Unit, Directorate General for Development and Cooperation – EuropeAid, European Commission* stressed the importance of unlocking the potential of local authorities in facilitating local development. Three challenges applied to the Black Sea region countries: decentralisation, access to funding and precarious link between the central and local government. In this sense, EC developed a document ''*Territorial approach to the local development*''[10], where local authorities are brought together with CSOs and other relevant stakeholders.

This policy note aims:
- ✓ to provide a definition of a national territorial development policy and a map of its multiple dimensions, and
- ✓ to identify entry points and appropriate modalities to support the development, adoption and implementation of a territorial approach to local development in diverse country contexts.

Natalia Budescu, presented the *Association for Cross-border Cooperation "Lower Danube Euroregion"* to illustrate private cooperation between sector & public authorities. The association was established in 2009 as a space for optimal solutions to clear problems, as local authorities finally understood that the public sector has to be a partner of CSOs and it's not enough to have just funding opportunities.

> *'' When we talk about enabling environment for development we have to work with all 3 (public, private and CSOs). They should work together and be not taken out of context.''*

The association's structure, bringing together NGOs are local authorities from Odessa (Ukraine) and Cahul (Moldova), Galați, Brăila and Tulcea (Romania) is very successful having 16 years of collaboration already. This framework helps the communities to keep up with the opportunities on the market (from the EC level to national level).

Results of the workshop discussions:

Challenges:

- Lack of a systemic approach – different ideas overlapping at the local level;
- Authorities as part of a constructive dialogue;
- Local democracy culture: need to educate local stakeholders;
- Lack of transparency & openness of the government;

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[10] www.capacity4dev.ec.europa.eu/public-pub.sector-reform-decentralisation/document/territorial-approach-local-development

- Lack of information for the business sector and not only, about the CSOs and their role in local development;
- Lack of democracy and good governance, when at local level it happens to have populist driven agenda;
- CSO have to promote themselves more and be more transparent on what they do, and how they spend money;
- Lack of local resources.

The solution is to have better trained civil servants, empowered with skills and knowledge.

Workshop 5: Social Economy

Moderator: Andrei Brighidin, *Evaluation and Development Director, East Europe Foundation, Republic of Moldova*

Resource person: Angela Achiței, Executive President, ''Alaturi de Voi'' Romania Foundation/ FOND member

Social economy (also known as "Solidary economy" or "the third sector") was developed from the need to find new and innovative solutions to different social, economic or environmental issues in communities, as well as to satisfy needs of community members which have been previously ignored or insufficiently covered by the public or the private sector. Social economy includes different organizations and/or juridical forms: cooperatives, mutual cooperatives, associations, foundations, etc. Since one of the priorities of action of the European Commission in the Black Sea Region is economic, social and human development of the region as a whole, social economy seems to be an innovative instrument which deserves attention and investment for development.

Results of the workshop discussions:

Needs & challenges specific to context	Priorities from regional perspective
- Develop and improve laws and regulations; - Lack of knowledge, capacity and experience; - Lack of business skills and understanding market rules by CSOs; - Poor cooperation among CSOs and business enterprises in the region; - Lack of information and communication - there is need to develop awareness campaigns on social economy in the region; - Some CSOs view social enterprises as a danger affecting the advantages of the groups with disabilities; - People with disabilities have limited access to the labour market; - State programs are not created in accordance with beneficiaries' needs; - No coordination among donors to support social economy; - Limited funding (in Romania) and lack of funding in the Republic of Moldova or Ukraine for social economy projects.	- It is important to include the social economy in the BSF strategy as a solution for the economic and social development of the region, because it empowers the CSOs to work more effectively towards their goals and to empower their beneficiaries as active citizens; - Create funding opportunities for the development of social economy in the region; - Create friendly legal policies and strategies in favour of social economy to benefit CSOs at national level and in the Black Sea Region; - Promoting human resources in social economy; - Establish programmes and projects to support the transfer of know-how and best practices among CSOs across the Black Sea Region.

Workshop 6: Youth and Education

Moderator: Andreea Buzec, *Program Manager and Trainer, Partners Foundation for Local Development - FPDL, Romania*
Resource persons :
Verginia Acălugăriţei, Project Coordinator, National Youth *Council* of Moldova
Cristian Băbuţău, President, EIVA Association
Romina Matei, Intercultural Institute from Timisoara

The objectives of this workshop was to create a map of interested and relevant CSOs and donors from the Black Sea Region in the area of youth and education; to identify good practices and inspiring examples of planned/ undergoing activities in the field of youth and education and to identify common needs/ challenges and opportunities in the 3 dimensions affecting youth and education.

Needs & challenges specific to context
- No Eastern Partnership component within the Erasmus+ Programme[11];   - Lack of youth representation and instruments to work with young people;   - Lack of NGO management skills for youth NGOs;   - Private universities compromise the quality of education because of financial interests;   - Lack of initiative, volunteering, activism among young people;   - No national Youth Strategy (Belarus, Albania) and poor youth work infrastructure – lack of youth centres;   - Need for concrete and structured youth policies to change the approach towards young people;   - Motivate young people to become more involved at political level;   - Need for recognition of non-formal education and youth work;   - Exclusion of young people;   - Hate speech in online and offline media;   - Lack of activity within the National Youth Councils;   - Limited access to education and labour market;   - Brain drain;   - Lack of expertise in terms of competences for youth workers and digital illiteracy.

Opportunities	Strategies
- Erasmus+, EVE platform, Eurodesk; - Distinct ministries for youth (Albania, Romania, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine); - National Youth strategies in place or in progress (Romania, Ukraine, Republic of Moldova, Albania); - The existence of know-how; - Financial support from EC, CoE, financial support from local and regional authorities;	- Avoid treating youngsters as beneficiaries, but try to engage them as project initiators; - Develop cross-border projects; - International platform for youth and education CSOs to facilitate exchanges, common projects, common agenda, eq. Azerbaijan Youth Forum[12]; - Working groups on youth and education within the Black Sea Forum; - Youth forum of the Region for elaborating trans-national projects; - Deeper analysis of youth needs;

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[11] www.ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/index_en.htm
[12] 1st Youth Policies Forum which took place in 28-30 October, 2014 in Baku, Azerbaijan. More information: www.youthpolicyforum.org

• Involvement of private sector; • The emergence of new media and IT sector; • European Social Fund (ESF) trainings and support for start-ups; • Important stakeholders and programmes: UNEP, OSCE, World Bank, TUNZA, Azerbaijan Youth Foundation; SALTO, Youth Coalition Networks.	• Creating a youth NGO map in the region; • Creating a youth regional strategy; • Using new media to promote youth work; • Sharing of opportunities through cooperation and networks; • Raising awareness on critical issues; • Cooperation between formal and non-formal education systems; • Online working and learning opportunities, organise webinars.

Day III, 10th December 2014

PLENARY SESSION VI

Donor's involvement in supporting CSOs in the Black Sea region

Moderator: Dimitry 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)

Bianca Baumler, *Outreach and Knowledge Management Officer, European Endowment for Democracy[13]*
EED is legally a private foundation based in Brussels, with the role to support democracy and grassroots activities.

Civil society, movements and group initiatives can apply if their projects:

✓ foster & encourage deep & sustainable democracy
✓ promote democratic values and work in favour of a pluralistic multiparty system in their countries
✓ registered or non-registered organizations and persons, including journalists
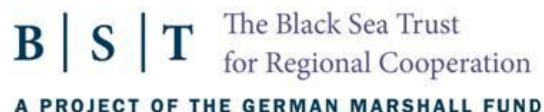
Differences from other donors:

✓ No priorities and deadline for submitting the online application form;
✓ Offers funding in emergency cases (response given in 3 days since the submission of the application);
✓ Applications can be submitted in 4 languages (RU, EN, FR & AR) ;
✓ No budget constraints: from €0 to over €100,000;
✓ No project duration constraints: from 3 days to over one year;
✓ No specific quota per countries, just to have an approximate balance between regions.

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[13] www.democracyendowment.eu

Martis Murnieks, *Programme Officer, Black Sea Trust for Regional Cooperation*

Black Sea Trust for Regional Cooperation (BST) is a public and private foundation, which was founded 7 years ago. The money was put together by private foundations from Germany, US and other European Countries, the main donor being the German Marshall Fund in the US.

BST Programmes are dedicated to supporting civic participation, cross-border initiatives, links with Eastern Europe and confidence building. As opposed to the majority of donors, BST accepts applications on an ongoing basis, the application languages are Russian and English, they offers small but flexible grants, and encourage creativeness and partnerships in the projects they fund.

Cristina Buzaşu, *Civil Society Manager, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)*[14]

Since European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) was established in 1991, it has maintained an ongoing and constructive dialogue with CSOs across the region. This dialogue focuses on: environmental and social issues, democracy, local community, transparency, business development issues related to the Bank's operations and promoting gender equality.

The extensive interaction between the EBRD and CSOs is made possible through a dedicated **Civil Society Engagement Unit**[15] set up in 2001 to facilitate dialogue with CSOs at the institutional level. In 2014, over 2200 CSOs registered with the EBRD. The Civil Society Engagement Unit engage with CSOs on various levels: information dissemination, involvement in policy dialogue, consultation on specific projects, country & sector strategies and operational policies, cooperation and partnerships.

For the period 2014 – 2015, the Bank will support projects falling under three pillars: **sustainable energy and resources** (ex: recycling in Romania); **economic inclusion** (ex: supporting small farmers and cooperatives in Ukraine); **governance & investment climate** (ex: investment climate and governance initiative - Ukraine, Moldova, Albania, Georgia, Serbia).

Viktoriya Taranenko, *Joint Technical Secretariat, Romania – Ukraine – Republic of Moldova Cross Border Cooperation Programme*[16]

The Joint Operational Programme "Romania-Ukraine-Republic of Moldova 2007-2013" (JOP RO-UA-MD) is one of the cross border programmes financed by EU through the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument.

Through the JOP RO-UA-MD, counties in border areas are encouraged to further develop the border economy, confront environmental challenges and enhance their preparedness for emergency situations. The program also promotes greater interaction between people and communities living in the border areas.

Next programming period 2014 – 2020:

✓ A bilateral programme, Romania – Ukraine;
✓ Odessa is one of the eligible regions;
✓ The objectives, priorities and outputs/ results will be established according to the consultations made in both of the states involved;
✓ the Joint Managing Authority (JMA) of this new programme is the Romanian Ministry of Regional Development and Public Administration;

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[14] www.ebrd.com
[15] www.ebrd.com/who-we-are/civil-society-overview.html
[16] http://www.ro-ua-md.net/en/

- ✓ the Joint Technical Secretariat of this new programme is the Regional Office for Cross-Border Cooperation Suceava, at the Romanian – Ukrainian border;
- ✓ The JTS will have branch offices in Odessa and Chernivtsi.

Katarzyna Jarosiewicz-Wargan, *Project Development, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, Project Coordination Unit, OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR)* [17]

The main direction of ODIHR is the involvement of CSOs in training national observers and involving them in election observations outside their countries. ODIHR, as an institution, has several specificities. Rather than having national programmes focusing on a number of countries, ODIHR is a regional organization that serves all 57 states participating in OSCE. ODIHR has a specific mandate regarding to the human dimension of security.

Within the ODIHR, there are 5 departments:

- ✓ **Elections observation**: observes elections, reviews legislation and advises governments on how to develop and sustain democratic institutions
- ✓ **Democratization**: policy making, participation of women & youth in politics, strengthening parliaments, integration of migrants etc;
- ✓ **Human Rights Department**: monitoring, reporting and advocating for change- freedom of assembly, association, prevention of torture etc;
- ✓ **Tolerance and non-discrimination department**: specialize on hate crimes and motivated violence and how to identify and prevent those issues;
- ✓ **Roma Department**: promoting integration and preventing discrimination of Roma in the OECS region.

The ODIHR does not usually offer grants, but supports CSOs representatives through trainings, consultations, policy making & influencing. However, in the past ODIHR occasionally launched support programmes for NGOs and offered funding in emergency cases.

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

Conclusions and results of this year's edition

The 7th edition of the Black Sea NGO Forum, will have **the following follow-up activities:**

- All the information discussed at the Forum will be gathered in the report of the event, which will highlight the main needs & challenges and solutions & opportunities for the CSOs regarding the creation of an enabling environment. The report will be sent to participants for feedback and later on published on Black Sea NGO Forum (www.blackseango.org).

- On medium term: FOND will continue the discussions on enabling environment in the region, following the key findings of the working groups and workshops of the event. This work will be coordinated with

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[17] http://www.osce.org/odihr

the CPDE Working Group on Enabling Environment, in order to bring more visibility towards the Black Sea area and integrate the regional activity in the global process on development effectiveness;

- For the next edition of the Black Sea Forum, FOND will elaborate a draft paper on strategic directions as viewed by CSOs in the region based on this year's consultation. This will be an open process, where all the Forum's participants will be engaged. There will also be the possibility to organize 2 smaller meetings in between the annual Forums to discuss about the issues presented during the event, what is enabling environment for CSOs and what type of strategy should we follow in the Black Sea region;

- Regarding the communication with the participants, the following instruments are available to participants: the BSF website (www.blackseango.org) updated with information and news from the Black Sea Region; the quarterly newsletter to which participants can contribute with examples of good practice, opportunities, research & policy papers etc, and the Black Sea NGO Facebook Page;

- FOND efforts will continue to be coordinated with other events or initiatives in the region such as the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum and the EU-Russia Forum, in order to not duplicate or overlap the efforts. At the same time, special attention will be given to the Mediterranean and Baltic Sea Regions.

Recommendations for the next period (brainstorming with the participants)

STRATEGY	CONTENT
- Transform the Forum into a process, rather than independent event; - Build national networks/platforms in the participating countries, under the umbrella of the Forum; - Establish the working groups before the Forum, and present their results and proposals at the event; - Build thematic networks/platforms on matters of interest such as: local development, environment platform etc; - The institutional framework should be flexible; - Strive to take into account the different problems and needs of CSOs from the region in a common strategy; - More specialised workshops during the event: project monitoring, election observation etc, even small sessions related to some training activities – particular on social media and advocacy.	- More concrete cross-border and regional projects to be supported by / initiated at the Forum; - More cooperation and coordination at national and regional level. - Present concrete results of the work of CSOs in each of the Black Sea countries, as well as the regional approach and initiatives; - Develop public and private partnerships, according to the needs in the region; - Build the capacity of NGOs in the region by encouraging and supporting expert mobility, sharing experience and organise trainings in the Black Sea countries; - Encourage the participation of more Russian NGOs.
STAKEHOLDERS	FUNDING
- Engage more representatives of the governments from participating countries; - Develop a strong and institutionalised relationship with the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) as it is the only intergovernmental and treaty based organization in the region which includes all the countries; - Engage more with CONCORD in order to integrate the Black Sea Region into the global civil society network.	Using the Black Sea Forum as a financial tool – the Forum is an instrument where ideas can be put together and build upon, it's a place to share experience and there is a certain type of flexibility that it cannot be found in other events.

Useful Resources

Black Sea NGO Forum official website: www.blackseango.org

Civil Society Facility, European Commission: http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/tenders/support-for-civil-society/civil-society-facility/index_en.htm

Civil Society. Dialogue for Progress Platform (part of a project which aims to support civil society organisations in the Eastern Partnership Countries to become stronger players in policy dialogue): http://www.csdialogue.eu/

CONCORD Europe - www.concordeurope.org

CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness - CPDE: http://www.csopartnership.org

DG Enlargement European Commission: http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/

European Endowment for Democracy: https://www.democracyendowment.eu/

European External Action Service (EEAS): http://www.eeas.europa.eu

Sustainable Development Goals: http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org

The Romanian NGDO Platform: www.fondromania.org