

Black Sea NGO Forum, 8th edition

2nd - 3rd of November 2015
Tbilisi, Georgia

- Concept & main topics -

This year's edition of the Black Sea NGO Forum will continue the previous edition's discussions, aiming to **finalize a strategic framework with thematic and cross-cutting cooperation areas for civil society at the Black Sea** that will consolidate regional cooperation and provide focus and sustainability to regional initiatives. To this end, we will rely on participants' **valuable input and expertise** to identify and prioritize the most important cooperation areas for civil society in the region, through a **facilitated participatory process**.

STRATEGIC PROCESS



MAIN APPROACH FOR THE BLACK SEA NGO FORUM 2015

- **Presenting the final Report** “*Enabling environment for civil society development in the Black Sea Region*”, focusing on thematic & cross-cutting cooperation areas identified by the respondents;

- **Gathering regional input and validating** the identified thematic & cross-cutting cooperation areas;

- **Prioritizing** the established thematic & cross-cutting cooperation areas;

- **Identifying resources & funding** to support these cooperation areas.

MAIN TOPICS FOR THE BLACK SEA NGO FORUM 2015

DAY I (2nd of November 2015)

Official opening session: An overview on the current regional and international contexts

Objectives:

- Presenting an update on the current context in the Black Sea Region;
 - Presenting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
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Plenary session: Enabling environment for civil society in the Black Sea Region – A cross-cutting priority?

Objectives:

- Presenting the major common points and differences between Black Sea countries regarding enabling environment for civil society, as showed by the conducted research;
 - Discussing making enabling environment for CSOs a cross-cutting cooperation area for civil society at the Black Sea, based on the conclusions & recommendations of the report;
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Plenary session: Bringing visibility for civil society of the Black Sea Region at the international level – An overview of recent changes in the development effectiveness agenda & opportunities (DAY I)

Objectives:

- Recent updates on the development effectiveness agenda and civil society's engagement through CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness (CPDE);
 - Instruments through which the Black Sea NGO Forum can support enabling environment for CSOs and the implementation of the Istanbul Principles in the region.
 - Election of the sub-regional – Black Sea and Balkans - representative in CPDE.
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Parallel Thematic Workshops

Objective: Organizing parallel thematic workshops, focused on common regional issues and the potential of developing regional thematic networks, with the purpose of:

- Presenting an overview at the regional level and sharing good-practices;
 - Identifying ways forward on how these thematic issues can be reflected in the strategic framework promoted by the Black Sea NGO Forum.
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Side event: Project/Networking Fair

Objective: Presenting best practices & projects from the Black Sea region

DAY II (3rd of November 2015)

Plenary session: The role of donors in supporting regional cooperation at the Black Sea

Objective: Presenting various funding instruments that could be accessed in order to develop projects/ initiatives in the identified cooperation areas established by the strategic framework.

Introductory session to the Parallel Thematic Working Groups

Objectives:

- Presenting the thematic cooperation areas, as identified by the participants in the research;
 - Explaining the facilitation process for the next parallel thematic working groups.
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Parallel Thematic Working Groups

Objective: Organizing a facilitated consultation process on the main thematic cooperation areas for civil society, as identified by the report (4 mixed WGs), based upon the following guiding points:

- Identifying key challenges in the identified thematic cooperation areas;
 - Proposing concrete regional initiatives/ projects/ programmes in the identified cooperation areas that can help address the key challenges mentioned;
 - Identifying ways through which the Black Sea NGO Forum can support regional cooperation in the identified thematic cooperation areas.
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Plenary session: Proposing a strategic framework for civil society cooperation

Objectives:

- Presenting a draft strategic framework outlining cross-cutting and thematic cooperation areas for civil society at the Black Sea, based on the discussions held in the previous sessions/ working groups & endorsing it by vote.