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**

- 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).

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;

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.