



“Time to Meet!”

Bucharest, 31 October –2 November 2008

Conclusions and Recommendations

www.BlackSeaNGO.org

The Romanian Development NGOs Platform (FOND) organized between the 31st of October and 2nd November 2008 the Black Sea NGO Forum - "Time to Meet" in Bucharest, Romania.

The Forum gathered more than 220 participants representing over 100 NGOs from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Byelorussia, Bulgaria, Georgia, Greece, Republic of Moldova, Turkey, Ukraine, Romania, Russia, and other EU member states active in the wider Black Sea region.

The event was organized in partnership with the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Black Sea Trust for Regional Cooperation and UNDP Romania in the framework of the Black Sea Synergy.

The major aim of the first edition of the Black Sea NGO Forum ("Time to Meet!") has been to increase the level of dialogue and mutual knowledge among NGOs in the wider Black Sea region.

The organizers envisioned this forum also as an opportunity for creating a pool of concrete projects and on proposing concrete recommendations for regional NGOs and donors in order to increase the number and quality of regional partnerships and projects.

The program included:

- Presentations of the state of affairs of the NGO sector in the region; perspectives of NGO regional cooperation; programs and financial support for civil society initiatives in the Black Sea region;
- Three panels focused on a cross-cutting issue "Challenges and opportunities for NGO cooperation in the Black Sea region", with presentations and discussions of the state of affairs in three broad fields: Social Justice and Human Rights, Democracy and Good Governance, Environment.
- Partnership fair to exchange experiences, to find partners for their project ideas and to elaborate project concepts in the field of social justice, human rights, democratization and good governance, sustainable development. Participants divided in small working groups and created 10 concept proposals which will be presented to the donors in the region.

Civil society development

Civil society in the region is relatively new –no older than 20 years and this is one of the major reasons while NGOs in the region face many similar challenges. The “(re)birth of civil society” happened in the 1990s. In all of the post-communist countries it took place as a direct effect of the regime change.

The external factors have been extremely important in this recent history. The support from United States and European governmental and nongovernmental actors has been a major catalyst for the creation and development of local NGOs. In the new EU member states and pre-accession countries, the European Union and the pre-accession process itself has played an essential role in providing support to the creation and development of CSOs. The pre-accession process has been equally important for the growth of NGOs' involvement in advocacy and policy work as their voice has become more relevant to the public authorities. Consultation of civil society has been a good practice introduced in the process.

Generally there has been a common evolution of the nongovernmental sector in the region: from mainly humanitarian assistance and social service providers in the early 1990s' to more capacity building, advocacy and lobbying, working on improving of legal environment for NGOs activities from the beginning of the 2000s'.

Civil society in the region faces very similar challenges:

- Low citizen participation and involvement with CSOs, in most of the countries as a consequence of authoritarian regimes which have undermined social trust and the formation of social capital.
- Lack of genuine cooperation of public authorities. In most of the countries of the region there is a widespread perception on Governments' partisanship and exploitation of civil society for merely public image purposes. In some of the countries there is a noticeable tendency for Governments to create parallel NGOs (GONGOs), subordinated to their own interests and to feign consultation with civil society.
- Weakness in financial sustainability and donor dependency (with associated features such as project hunting behavior and competition for resources creating rivalry). In order to reduce this dependency and to strengthen the financial sustainability, innovative instruments have been introduced in some countries (e.g. 2% law). A focus on economic activities carried out by NGOs and social entrepreneurship led by NGOs is still in an incipient phase due to weakness of local markets vis-à-vis the services offered by NGOs.
- The support from the private sector is generally weak and it is limited to charity.
- Due to the lack of constant and predictable resources, the organizational capacity remains weak.

- In many countries of the region the legal environment is not favorable for CSOs. There are examples of good practices in some of the countries (e.g. the EU new member states) however enforcement problems affect even states where the legal environment has been visibly improved.
- Most actively working NGOs are located in the capital cities and in major towns, while in large portions of the countries, particularly rural areas and less developed / de-industrialized regions, NGOs are less present.
- Generally media make general references to NGOs, with insufficient coverage of their ideas and activities.

Social Justice

Dealing with social problems and poverty reduction is one of the main fields of expertise in the view of the NGOs from the region. Presentations in the panel on Social Justice and Human Rights raised new arguments for the role that NGOs can play in implementing social justice principles and achieving social justice in a specific society. NGOs possible roles relate to advocacy, education, training services/ information services, watch dog activities and services for vulnerable categories of citizens.

Regional cooperation among NGOs related to social justice achievement in the region must be increased. While in the past NGO cooperation in the region happened more often in the fields of environment, conflict resolution and democracy, there is a visible need for a strong framework for cooperation of NGOs active in providing solutions to social problems and poverty reduction. Donors and Governments are invited to pay more attention to addressing these needs.

Cooperation in this field, on non-controversial issues that unite rather than divide, might prove one of the most effective ways to increase mutual confidence in the Black Sea region.

Poverty, in different degrees, is part of the social reality in the Black Sea region although it has been less prominent than other issues. Systemic problems inherited from the past political regimes affect in a very similar way most of the countries in the region: the systems of child protection, integration of people with disabilities or the health system are everywhere in difficult conditions. In the absence of a strong public support structure and public services for these categories of people, most often the solutions came through the involvement of NGOs. NGOs developed various responses to the problems of the people in need. They started to act first of all as providers of social services and care - most of the time with financial support and know-how from abroad - and moved gradually, in some of the countries in the region, to a role of advocate and promoter of policy change in the social field. Why this was possible in some countries and not in others and how good experience and practices in this respect can be exchanged represented one of the key themes of this panel.

One social phenomenon has a clear regional nature, transnational causes and effects: migration. Beyond the security problems that it raises, especially when associated with transnational crime, migration has also serious social and human rights effects which are often not given the due attention. Migrants often become victims of trafficking in people and of sexual exploitation. Sometimes that is largely a very consequence of national policies. In the case of economic migrants, the youngest and most qualified working population is leaving one country (brain-drain) affecting its medium and long-term development perspectives. Although remittances are essential for the survival of those left at home, on a long term perspective migration

produces serious social and economic imbalances. Social security and health care systems, already strained by economic transition, are affected by the impossibility to collect additional resources from taxes. A large share of the population is not included either as beneficiary and contributor. Children and elderly are left behind most of the time on their own.

Eastern Europe and Central Asia (EECA) are a major source of trafficked persons, besides being a transit and, to some extent, also destination countries. The major forms of trafficking in the region are: sexual exploitation (women and girls), forced labor in the construction industry (men), begging (children), trafficking in human organs. There are several factors affecting migration in the region: ongoing and “frozen” conflicts in the region (e.g. Abkhazia, South Ossetia), flow of IDPs; war orphans; decline of economic opportunities. Moreover, the lack of cooperation at the regional level –state and non-state actors; state to state agencies) represent an important challenge.

There is still a weak advocacy capacity in addressing Governments in the region. In some countries in the recent years there have been a number of NGO initiatives aiming to influence social policies. A few of these examples have been presented during the Forum: reform of child protection systems (Georgia), budget monitoring (Azerbaijan), network of NGOs in the social field (Republic of Moldova), civil society response to trafficking (Georgia). Success has been mostly present where governments have been involved in consultation from the very beginning of the process, where they were more open to adopt and support changes proposed by NGOs. Partnership with other powerful non-governmental stakeholders is also a key element. In many of the countries of the region Governments lack the administrative capacity and resources to promote policy change in the social field and proceed to deeper reforms. Governments must realize that often NGOs possess expertise and experience and that they can support public authorities in formulating and implementing social policies. Exchange of good practices in terms of legislation favourable to advocacy and organization of advocacy activities can be very useful.

NGO representatives expressed their need to increase their capacity through exchange of knowledge, experiences and best practices. They find this way of developing their skills and expertise more adequate than spending exaggerate amounts of funds on provision of technical assistance by foreign experts. More needs to be done, particularly in strengthening the capacity of local NGOs and supporting the development of social work as a profession in the region.

Environment

The Black Sea Region needs to lay the bases for an economic viable future, lasting and environmentally attractive. The achievement of this aspiration requires that environmental issues are treated unitary in the whole Black Sea Basin. Civil society organizations, working together with national governments and international organizations, have a responsibility and an essential role to play in this framework through their capacity to cooperate and create partnerships on specific issues.

The Black Sea region has become an essential focus of preoccupation as a transit route for energy resources in the region. With the accession of Romania and Bulgaria to the European Union, the Black Sea has become a part of the environmental area of direct concern for the EU.

Many of the Black Sea countries' economies are dependent (to bigger or lesser degree) of the use of raw materials and agriculture, which are either of a finite character or need continue investment and access on the external markets. Mass-exploitation of the natural resources creates unsustainable patterns of development and insolvable environmental problems which are much more difficult to cure than to prevent. Soviet-era or communist-type of industrial development has also created numerous economic, social and industrial problems.

There has been a need to bring up to date regional activities, as even regional processes which had been launched and are in course did not keep up with the latest evolutions in the area, and the new geography of the EU increases the chances that this need finds a more adequate response. In order to increase the efficiency of the policies in the region, the Black Sea Region states must concentrate their activities on the implementation of multilateral treaties and to put bases for long term functional strategic cooperation. Despite certain improvements in the last years on administrative and regulatory frameworks, there remain important problems between the countries in the region which limits the potential for regional cooperation. These problems must be treated first of all at regional level.

Environment is seen as an essential link between NGOs and authorities and as an important factor in supporting peace and confidence building.

Most of the participants to the Black Sea NGO forum have agreed on the fact that environment represents a major issue for regional cooperation in the Black Sea region. Environmental problems can only be dealt with through joint effort. Civil society has a major role in raising awareness of the population and in working together to convince institutional actors to cooperate.

There are many issues affecting environment in the region: some of the issues are related to the legacy of the soviet era, when massive industrialization was introduced without any regards to the principle of sustainable development. New challenges are adding up: the damages caused by the infrastructure for energy transport routes and climate change. Unsustainable practices in agriculture cause soil desertification. Oil and gas transit are threatening both soil and marine environment. War has taken its own toll in terms of environmental damage.

At the same time it has been emphasized that NGOs should commit more efforts to communicate and work with authorities in the field, both at national and regional level. There are examples of success in several countries in the region (particularly in the new EU member states) which prove that positive change is possible.

Citizens should be made more aware of the dangers related to pollution and Governments should consult their citizens and civil society organizations before making crucial decision related to the development of the region which bear risks and raise environmental concerns.

Donors in the field of environment have emphasized that up to the present NGOs have been very successful in raising awareness at community level on environmental and policy issues, in influencing local and national policy influence, in realizing income generating activities based on sustainable use of biodiversity resources (eco-tourism, biological agriculture, secondary forestry products, etc). Nonetheless, more resources and efforts need to be mobilized in order to increase the capacity of NGOs and of Community Based Organizations (CBOs).

Environmental NGOs acknowledge that the development of the region is important, yet it should not be pursued with the cost of pollution and contamination. Civil society has the advantage of offering a critical perspective beyond economic and geo-political interests. Regardless of their nationality, NGO workers in the field of environment need to maintain their integrity, to identify their common goals and to defend them.

Environmental NGOs consider that The European Union is the key actor in the region capable to determine positive change on medium and long term.

Democracy, good governance and conflict resolution

With only less than 20 years of non-communist regimes, the region encompasses countries with limited history of democracy. The state of democracy varies widely within the region –from full fledged democracies, to illiberal democracies and authoritarian regimes. Many blame the democracy deficit on geopolitics and instability in the region, and the recent military conflict might well prove them right. Yet, many argue that democratic reforms can still be undertaken, irrespective of geopolitical context. Moreover, democracy ensures the rights of ethnic minorities, and further escalation of ethnic conflicts in the region could hence be avoided.

Across the region –there is one common denominator: neither citizens, nor governments know how to act in a democracy. Most countries have passed legislation that allows for citizen participation (a region specific – citizen participation has to be allowed for) and outlines either basic or even sophisticated citizen action. The legislation is either poorly implemented or insufficiently internalized by citizens and civil society organizations.

There are democracy and human rights organizations in all countries of the region, some acting more freely than others. Their activity ranges from election observation to training of elected officials or protection of individual rights. Some act in free or relatively free environments, while others face life risking situations to fulfil their mission. Some benefit the cooperation of national and/ or local governments, while others have to break the governmental wall of indifference or, worse, repression.

To add to the diversity, media enjoys full to no rights across the region. In some countries journalists write freely, while in others they are killed for their words.

However democratically heterogeneous the region seems to have one common denominator: local governments are more willing to get closer to citizens and involve them in decision making than their national counterparts. Furthermore, they seem more open to admit their lack of experience and search for advice within the community.

The weakness of democracy and democratic institutions is a problem identified by the majority of the participants to the Forum.

The main concerns of CSOs representatives are related to the lack of transparency in governmental activities and in decision making processes by the governments, parliaments or regional and local authorities; a slow democratization process and a lack of democratic traditions that often lead to high corruption; falsified

elections are not uncommon in the region; freedom of speech and free media are absent from many of the countries in the Black Sea region.

As democracy is recent in all of the countries in the region, just as civil society is, there is a general perception that while democratic institutions are still immature, there are significant differences between the levels of development of democratic institutions in the countries from the Black Sea region. These differences could make cooperation more difficult, because in some cases they might generate different priorities in the field of democratization.

Most of the countries in the region face challenges related to free elections. Good practice existent in some of the countries can be used as a catalyst for change and as arguments and models which lead to the successful adoption of good practices. There is a real need for continuing election monitoring activities.

Transparency in the decision making process is an essential prerequisite for good governance and democracy. There is an urgent need to promote in all the countries in the region legislation for freedom of information (Freedom of Information Act - *FOIA*) to ensure government transparency. Even in the countries where *FOIA* legislation exist, there are still not in place means to sanction or to hold governments accountable for its implementation. There is also a need for substantially increasing and strengthening capacities at the governmental and non-governmental level in order to ensure the enforcement of legislation for freedom of information.

Civil society would like to draw attention on the current orientation of main state actors in the region towards promoting stability over democracy. The general tendency at the moment seems to be that as long as a country is strong economically it does not matter if it is democratic or not. However, it should not be forgotten that the quality of democracy (including first of all the civil society) and its consistence would be a decisive component for the security framework in general of the wider Black Sea region, alongside with reforms and sustainable development.

The violation of human rights is also an important regional problem. Promoting human rights protection, social inclusion for vulnerable or dependent categories, inter-ethnic and inter-cultural tolerance, labour rights or gender equality is of great importance for the region. Problems like discrimination, racism, domestic violence or trafficking could be prevented through more civil society engagement and cooperation.

It is important that donors support civil society even in the countries that already have “good governance”.

The regional instability has also been noted as an important obstacle for cooperation among civil society organizations. Black Sea Region is a region affected by conflicts at many levels, within countries and between countries.

Competing foreign policy visions for the region and geopolitical approaches also prevent the creation of a space for cooperation among the various actors in the region.

Civil society engagement in conflict transformation and peace-building has increased substantially over the past two decades. However the lessons of the last years should be learnt and current needs assessed to ensure more strategic and sustainable engagement in building capacities to deal with conflicts effectively.

The conflict in Georgia and the impact of new dynamics in the region after August 7th need to be taken into account by CSOs and donors.

Communication and cooperation

According to the large majority of the participants to the Forum, communication problems are the main obstacle preventing cooperation between the NGOs in the Black Sea region and they generate many other problems. The access to funds required for regional projects is very limited and an increased support from international donors is needed in the region. While donors from the United States and from a few European countries continue to provide assistance for NGO exchanges in the region, the European Union is expected to match its promises and to play a more important role in supporting civil society regional cooperation.

In key moments NGOs in the region have proven the capacity of civil society to transcend historical traumas and political enmities and to create solidarity among people (ex. Greece – Turkey model; but also cooperation among NGOs from Armenia, Azerbaijan and Turkey).

As it was suggested during the even in Bucharest, the Black Sea NGO Forum can be strengthened by examining the experience of other similar platforms of cooperation in the Baltic Sea and the Mediterranean regions.

The Mediterranean civil society experience is in many respects closer to the context in the Black Sea region in various respects (e.g. the Euromed civil platform includes NGOs from countries which are more diverse, more countries are included in the ENP area and conflicts are present in the area). CSOs in the Mediterranean share the same concern related to issues such as democratization, human rights, conflict resolution in the region or environment. Similarly to the situation in the Black Sea region, the active involvement of civil society in the implementation of the ENP has been generally lacking. CSOs have asked the EU to overhaul its mechanisms for involving civil society in the future stages of the implementation of the action plans, ensuring in particular that citizens and their organisations are involved well in advance in such processes, and where needed, that full information and training is given to the participants. Related to the EU policy in the Mediterranean, CSOs have noted that democratisation is not an automatic consequence of free trade. They had cautioned on such a debate becoming security-oriented rather than focusing on social, economic and cultural development and rights. Related to the new project on a Mediterranean Union, CSOs have demanded that any Mediterranean initiative will have as an aim the empowerment of civil society. The same appeal should be made by NGOs in the Black Sea region related to the European Union's initiative on an Eastern Partnership.

The Baltic Sea NGO Forum has already a long history. In 2009 the 9th edition of the Forum will be held. Similarly to the objectives of the first edition of the Black Sea NGO Forum, the Baltic NGOs had as a main goal to create connections between national and international experiences. Similarly to the Baltic Sea

initiative, the Black Sea NGO Forum will aim for the next editions to involve civil society into developing Black Sea cooperation by following the evolution of structures and policies in the region, particularly the EU lead initiatives. Also in terms of structures in place, the Black Sea NGO Forum aims to take place once a year, hosted by a different country in the region. Based on its first „Time To Meet” experience, the Black Sea NGO Forum will work through a Coordinating Committee based on 10 focal points committing voluntarily their capacity to act as focal points for the Forum. The Baltic experience shows that the challenges ahead are not negligible at all, how difficult is to mobilize a constant and predictable financial support for this initiative and how equally difficult it is to keep all partners committed. Despite all the obstacles it might be very useful to create a closer cooperation between the NGO networks in the three main regions: Mediterranean, Black Sea and Baltic Sea.

One of the main objectives of the participants to the Forum has been to find partners for future cooperation, to build relationships with similar organizations and to begin planning joint projects. This is a clear indication that there is a great potential for cooperation in the region. There has been an evident confidence among the participant organizations in their capacity to share their experience and expertise with other organizations from the region. From the perspective of civil society representatives, the region has a large potential for NGO cooperation, due to the similarity of problems, common background (in many cases) and usefulness of exchanging good practices.

The Partnership Fair organized in the last day of the Forum brought together almost 70 participants who exchanged experiences, searched partners for their project ideas and began to elaborate project concepts in the field of social justice, human rights, democratization and good governance, environment. The participants have chosen to work on specific project ideas in one of the 10 working groups which were created for this purpose. The 10 resulting concept proposals will be presented to the donors in the region. *(See Annex 1 –List of proposed projects)*

Follow-up to the Forum

Before their participation to the Forum, the applicants were asked to give their opinion on the main obstacles preventing cooperation among civil society organizations in the Black Sea region, over half of the NGO representatives ranked communication problems as their top concern. Lack of a regional network and data base, lack of awareness on common problems and lack of knowledge of joint events and projects were also identified as obstacles by NGOs from various countries in the region.

In terms of communication the final evaluation of the Forum also reveals that there is a real interest among participant to the Forum for sharing good practices and even to deepen the exchange of information to include concrete examples NGOs and donors' success stories of Black Sea regional cooperation projects. Other topics for which participants indicated a great interest are vertical and horizontal cooperation within NGO sector, NGO strategies to increase room for CSO movement in policy formulation and monitoring government action.

There is a clear need to improve the communication among NGOs in the region. One of the ideas advanced during the Forum is to establish a resource center to support communication cooperation. This resource center should not have a heavy structure and should try to include and to build upon existent communication and cooperation instruments in the region. It was suggested that the *Black Sea NGO Forum* has the potential to ensure a platform of communication for the NGOs in the region. The preparatory team of the first Black Sea NGO network will re-launch an on-line instrument (the web page of the Forum) by the end of 2008. It will be accompanied by a monthly newsletter with relevant information about and for the NGOs in the region. A data base of NGOs from the region will be included in this proposed communication instrument. It will first collect information on the applicant NGOs (over 200 NGOs in the region) and it will aim to provide space for each NGO to introduce itself to potential partners and funders.

The participants have also agreed that the Forum is needed and should be organized on a regular basis and that it should be organized each year in a different country from the Black Sea region: *"The Black Sea NGO Forum should be regular; it's one of the few possibilities to interact in a region which is not so accessible"*.

If in 2008 the message of the Forum has been "Time to Meet!", for the next edition a different title has already been proposed: *"Time to Act!"*.

Recommendation to/from the donors

Institutional donors provide the largest share of the financial support for NGOs in the Black Sea region and are essential actors shaping their development and influencing their choices.

In the 2005 Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, donors committed to harmonizing their aid efforts to ensure that aid is directed where it is needed most. They also reaffirmed the principle of ownership and the essential role of partner countries in defining their own needs and strategies.

Based on the discussion in the panels of the Forum and on the donors' own evaluations, a series of recommendations should be taken into account by donors, regardless the field they are working in.

Donors should:

- Strengthen existing networks and encourage them to work together.
- Support exchanges of experience and good practices among NGOs in the region.
- Emphasize the importance of knowledge and information networking within and across the region. Assist the development of NGO (information) networks in the region.
- Help build organisational capacity of NGOs (instead of funding just projects). Allow, through their aid programmes, for NGOs to cover staff salaries and invest in staff development.
- Consider NGOs' real capacities when setting funding conditions (allow staffing and operational costs, fair payment and co-financing conditions, provide longer-term and regular funding cycles).
- Ensure tailored capacity building for NGOs, both in terms of knowledge and skills.
- Give more training on fundraising, especially on fundraising strategies and complex application rules.
- Support information/training to build NGO understanding of the legal framework.
- Be on the ground and consult local NGOs and local experts in prioritizing needs in order to minimize the risk that projects funded do not reflect the problems in the region.
- Be more aware of the impact their policies have on conflicts.
- Try to ensure policy coherence.
- Strive to co-ordinate better.
- Support co-operation and communication between NGOs, government and media.
- Assist governments in developing supportive tax regulations for NGOs.
- Offer capacity building for officials to overcome the current gaps in practical implementation practices on access to information and public participation issues.

Annex 1 - List of proposed projects

The Partnership Fair organized in the last day of the Forum brought together almost 70 participants who exchanged experiences, searched partners for their project ideas and began to elaborate project concepts in the field of social justice, human rights, democratization and good governance, environment. The participants have chosen to work on specific project ideas in one of the 10 working groups which were created for this purpose. The 9 resulting concept proposals will be presented to the donors in the region.

Social Justice and Human Rights

Proposed projects:

1. Corporate Social Responsibility: Open Dialogue with Business in the Black Sea Region

Countries involved: Romania, Bulgaria, Denmark

2. Capacity Building on Migration Management in the Black Sea Region

Countries involved: Azerbaijan, Greece, Turkey, Romania, Moldova

3. Regional cooperation for the improvement of the legislation for the protection of refugees and asylum seekers in the Black Sea Region countries

Countries involved: Romania, Turkey, Azerbaijan, Greece, Moldova

4. Improving quality of life for the vulnerable population in three post conflict regions South Caucasus

Countries involved: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia

5. Cooperation of NGOs and local authorities –steps towards shared child protection responsibilities

Countries involved: Moldova, Armenia, Georgia, Romania

Democracy and Good Governance

Proposed projects:

1. Black Sea Youth Forum

Countries involved: Moldova, Russia, Ukraine, Romania

2. Enhancing Effective Civil Society Peace Building and Violence Prevention in the Black Sea Region

Countries involved: Armenia, Romania, Turkey, Moldova, Georgia, USA

Environment

Proposed projects:

- 1. Reducing the climate change impact on agriculture through improving the quality of climatical services provided to farmers and population**

Countries involved: Moldova, Armenia, Georgia, Turkey, Romania

- 2. Energy saving, climate change adaptation and mitigation**

Countries involved: Moldova, Armenia, Georgia, Turkey, Romania

Annex 2 - List of participants

Black Sea NGO Forum

Bucharest, 31 October - 2 November



| | Surname | First Name | Organization | Country |
|----|----------------------|-------------------|--|---------------------|
| 1 | Aberg | Mats | Swedish Embassy | Sweden |
| 2 | Abrudan | Adrian | COEVOLVE | Romania |
| 3 | Achitei | Angela | Alaturi de Voi Romania Foundation | Romania |
| 4 | Aelenei | Ana Maria | Black Sea Trust | Romania |
| 5 | Akçay | Engin | Turkish International Cooperation and Development Agency | Turkey |
| 6 | Akhutina | Daria | NGO "Association for cooperation with Nordic countries NORDEN" | Russia |
| 7 | Alexandru | Felicia | British Embassy in Romania | Romania |
| 8 | Alexandru | Violeta | Institute for Public Policies | Romania |
| 9 | Allahveranov | Azer | Forum of Azerbaijan NGOs on Migration Issues, FANGOM | Azerbaijan |
| 10 | Almasan | Ana Maria | Ministry of Foreign Affairs | Romania |
| 11 | Andersen | Scott | IREX | USA |
| 12 | Andrei | Lavinia | Terra Mileniu III | Romania |
| 13 | Antero | Inkari | Finland Embassy | Finland |
| 14 | Arancli | Suade | Civil Society Development Centre | Turkey |
| 15 | Arnautu | Mariana | World Vision Romania, Project Coordinator | Romania |
| 16 | Arvinte | Andrei | The Foundation for Community Care Services | Romania |
| 17 | Askjem | Solveig | The International Council on Social Welfare (ICSW) | Norway |
| 18 | Aslan | Ozlem | Initiative for Women's Labour and Employment | Turkey |
| 19 | Aslanishvili | Teona | Save the Children Georgia | Georgia |
| 20 | Aslanli | Kenan | Public Finance Monitoring Center | Azerbaijan |
| 21 | Atroshchankau | Aliaksandr | European Belarus | Belarus |
| 22 | Ayvazyan | Marine | Eurasia Partnership Foundation | Armenia |
| 23 | Baboi-Stroe | Adrian | Press Monitoring Agency | Romania |
| 24 | Baciu | Olivia | Partners Foundation for Local Development | Romania |
| 25 | Badila | Adrian | Alma Ro | Romania |
| 26 | Bakhtadze | Kakhaber | Caucasus Environmental NGO Network (CENN) | Georgia |
| 27 | Bandarenka | Dzmitry | Charter '97 | Belarus |
| 28 | Barbarosie | Arcadie | Institute for Public Policy | Republic of Moldova |
| 29 | Batu | Arda | ARI Movement | Turkey |
| 30 | Bedoya | Christine | TRIALOG | Austria |

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|----|-----------------------|------------|--|---------------------|
| 31 | Berceanu | Diana | Civil Society Development Foundation (FDSC) | Romania |
| 32 | Bilgen | Ayse | Human Rights Research Association | Turkey |
| 33 | Bliznakov | Nikolaj | Plovdiv University/Bulgaria Activists | Bulgaria |
| 34 | Bodrug-Lungu | Valentina | Gender-Center | Republic of Moldova |
| 35 | Bondari | Aurelia | National Federation of Agricultural Producers from Republic of Moldova "AGROinform" | Republic of Moldova |
| 36 | Botezatu | Mariana | Gender-Center | Republic of Moldova |
| 37 | Bozhinova | Daniela | Bulgarian Association for the Promotion of Citizens Initiative | Bulgaria |
| 38 | Brand-Jacobsen | Denisa | UNDP Romania | Romania |
| 39 | Brand-Jacobsen | Kai | PATRIR | Romania |
| 40 | Bujder | Irina | Pro Democratia Association | Romania |
| 41 | Bulut | Ayca | Civil Society Development Centre | Turkey |
| 42 | Burada | Valentin | Civil Society Development Foundation (FDSC) | Romania |
| 43 | Canea | Sorina | Black Sea Regional Operational Programme | Romania |
| 44 | Caruana | Vince | CONCORD - WG EPAN | Malta |
| 45 | Catalui | Daria | Romania Youth Council (CTR) | Romania |
| 46 | Cetiner | Metin | Kimse Yok Mu Solidarity and Aid Association | Turkey |
| 47 | Chifu | Iulian | Center for Early Warning and Conflict Prevention | Romania |
| 48 | Chioveanu | Paul | Agentia de Monitorizare a Presei | Romania |
| 49 | Ciuciur | Viorelia | Civil Society Development Foundation (FDSC) | Romania |
| 50 | Ciucu | Ciprian | Civil Society Development Foundation (FDSC) | Romania |
| 51 | Comanescu | Lazar | Minister of Foreign Affairs of Romania | Romania |
| 52 | Constantin | Florentina | Confederatia Caritas Romania | Romania |
| 53 | Correll | Denys | International Council on Social Welfare, C/ O MOVISE Netherlands Centre for Social Development | Netherlands |
| 54 | Costescu | Alex | British Embassy in Romania | Romania |
| 55 | Cotruta | Victor | Regional Environmental Centre for Republic of Moldova | Republic of Moldova |
| 56 | Covaliu | Florentina | UNHCR | Romania |
| 57 | Cozos | Ionela | East European Institute for Reproductive Health (EEIRH) | Romania |
| 58 | Craciun | Adriana | UNDP-GEF | Romania |
| 59 | Cunningham | Mark | Black Sea Trust | USA |
| 60 | Danielyan | Karine | Association "For Sustainable Human Development" | Armenia |
| 61 | Davidescu | Dragos | CENTRAS | Romania |

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|----|-------------------------|----------|--|---------------------|
| 62 | Delhaas-van Dijk | Anita | World Vision Romania, National Director | Romania |
| 63 | Devidze | Manana | Caucasus Environment | Georgia |
| 64 | Durmaz | Derya | Humanitarian Development Association | Turkey |
| 65 | Ercus | Adriana | Institutul de Politici Publice | Romania |
| 66 | Folger | Sue | Internews Network | USA |
| 67 | Fonari | Antonita | Reteaua ONG-urilor din Domeniul Social | Republic of Moldova |
| 68 | Fornea | Dumitru | EESC | Romania |
| 69 | Foy | Colm | OECD Development Center | OECD |
| 70 | Fukasaku | Kuchivo | OECD Development Center | OECD |
| 71 | Gavrilov | Igor | International Committee of Citizen Diplomacy | Republic of Moldova |
| 72 | Godea | Mihai | CONTACT Center | Republic of Moldova |
| 73 | Goldenbaum | Mark | Internews Network | USA |
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