

Black Sea NGO Forum 2009
'NGOs in Times of Crisis'
29 - 31 October 2009

Bucharest, Romania

Preliminary Report



The Black Sea NGO Forum

The **Black Sea NGO Forum** was launched in **2008** by the Romanian Federation of Development NGOs (FOND) and its partners throughout the region with support from the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Black Sea Trust for Regional Cooperation in the framework of the Black Sea Synergy. It has continued in 2009 in cooperation with the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the European Commission and the Black Sea Trust for Regional Cooperation.



I. History

First Edition: 'Time to Meet' - Bucharest, 2008

In 2008, the **first edition** of the Forum gathered over 100 non-governmental organizations (NGOs) from **Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bulgaria, Georgia, Greece, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russia, Turkey, Ukraine**, as well as from other **European Union** member states together with important actors in the wider Black Sea Region.

The Forum aims at increasing the level of **dialogue and cooperation** among NGOs in the wider Black Sea region, as a means of **strengthening NGOs** and their capacity to influence regional and national policies.

Our **vision**, as civil society, is that, historically, the Black Sea has been rather a cooperation medium than a barrier. Naturally, it has allowed communication and exchange (either cultural or economic). Non-governmental organizations in the region are very similar, in terms of the origin, the path and the challenges they are facing. There are numerous **lessons learned and substantial expertise** which are worth sharing. Non-governmental organizations have the vocation to act jointly to bring **positive social change** for both their countries and for the region as a whole.

The accession of Romania and Bulgaria to the European Union (EU) moved the border of the EU to the Black Sea, thus creating **new opportunities for cooperation**. Romania and Bulgaria have joined the 10 New Member States (NMS) of the EU in becoming donor countries and taking responsibilities within the external action of the EU.

Similar historical context and problems have lead NMS to be particularly interested and able to share experience and expertise and to contribute with resources to supporting economic, social and political reform in neighbor countries in the wider Black Sea region.

The Black Sea NGO Forum is complementary to other regional initiatives (for instance the recently launched Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum). It looks for creating synergies, avoiding overlapping activities and making full use of the civil society potential in the region. There are three main defining elements of this Forum, within the Black Sea Synergy framework:

1. The focus of the Black Sea NGO Forum is on **non-governmental organizations** as a particular transformative force throughout the region, bearers of democratic values and advocates of open societies, human and social rights, peace and solidarity throughout the region.



2. The Black Sea NGO Forum aims to bring together NGOs from all the countries from the wider Black Sea region (as defined in the Black Sea Synergy - Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bulgaria, Georgia, Greece, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russia, Turkey, Ukraine), as a forum for specialized regional dialogue and cooperation between non-governmental organizations and institutions active in the region.

3. The Forum brings around the same table **civil society, EU representatives, international donors and officials** from the region or involved in the region, thus supporting capacity building for these actors in order to overcome current gaps in access to information and funds, as well as in implementation practices.

The first edition of the Forum acknowledged that within this region, which is extremely complex from a political point of view, cooperation among NGOs from the civil society represents a real potential for stability and prosperity in the wider Black Sea region.

Second Edition: 'NGOs in Times of Crisis' - Bucharest, 2009

The second edition of the Forum was organized by FOND in Bucharest, on 29-31 October. Over 180 participants from 21 countries attended the event.

The topics of the Forum were selected based on a consultation process that was launched in early summer 2009.

Based on the first edition's evaluation and suggestions, the second edition of the Forum included more **space for discussion and participation** - 2 series of 5 parallel panels, on the following topics:

- Democracy: Fair elections & Election monitoring
- Human rights: Freedom of the media & Freedom of expression
- Environment: Climate change / Black Sea regional cooperation
- Children rights: Child protection / Violence against children
- Social protection: Social services / Health services
- Strengthening Civil Society
- Advocacy & Policy
- Financial Sustainability & Fundraising
- Legitimacy of the sector & Relations with governments

Volunteering & Citizen participation

Study-visits to Romanian NGOs were organized for the participants in order to help them become better acquainted with the contribution of local civil society to the process of transition and reforms before and during the accession to the EU. Participants had the possibility to choose to visit NGOs in their specific field of work (democracy and good governance, human rights, freedom of expression and mass media, environment, child protection, social services, health).

The Agenda

Thursday, 29 October 2009

Plenary Session

9.00 - 9.30

Introductory remarks / Key note speeches

ATLAS 2

Moderator: Mr. Ionuț Sibian (Civil Society Development Foundation, Romania)

- Mr. Leonard Orban, European Commissioner for Multilingualism
- Mr. Bogdan Mazuru, State Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Romania
- H.E. Mr. Mats Åberg, Swedish Ambassador in Bucharest, on behalf of the Swedish Presidency of the EU

09.30 - 10.00

Coffee break

10.00 - 12.30

Black Sea NGOs in Times of Crisis

ATLAS 2

Moderator: Mr. Ionuț Sibian (Civil Society Development Foundation, Romania)

Regional overview - Ms. Alina Inayeh (Black Sea Trust, Romania)

Country-specific remarks:

- Armenia - Mr. Boris Navasardian (Yerevan Press Club)
- Azerbaijan - Mr. Erkin Gadirli (The Citizen's Union "Republican Alternative")
- Georgia - Mr. Ucha Nanuashvili (Human Rights Center)
- R. Moldova - Mr. Igor Munteanu (Institute for Development and Social Initiatives - IDIS Viitorul)
- Russia - Ms. Tatyana Valentinovna Lyskina (Southern Regional Resources Center)

12.30 - 14.00

Lunch

14.00 - 15.30

5 Thematic Panels

ATLAS 2

1. *Democracy: Fair elections & Election monitoring*

Moderator: Mr. Rodger Potocki (National Endowment for Democracy)

Mr. Ion Manole (Promo-LEX, R. Moldova)

Ms. Ekaterine Siradze-Delaunay (International Society for Fair Elections and Democracy, Georgia)

Mr. Anar Mammadli (Election Monitoring and Democracy Studies Center, Azerbaijan)

MEROPE 2

2. *Human rights: Freedom of the media & Freedom of expression*

Moderator: Mr. Mircea Toma (Media Monitoring Agency, Romania)

Mr. Emin Huseynov (Institute for Reporter Freedom and Safety, Azerbaijan)

Mr. Petru Macovei (Association of Independent Press, R. Moldova)

ELECTRA 2

3. *Environment: Climate change / Black Sea regional cooperation*

Moderator: Mr. Oleg Rubel (Black Sea Branch of Ukrainian Environmental Academy of Science)

Ms. Tamara Mtvarelidze (Caucasus Environmental NGO Network, Georgia)

ELECTRA 1

4. *Children rights: Child protection / Violence against children*

Moderator: Ms. Gabriela Alexandrescu (Save the Children/FOND, Romania)

Ms. Karin Fagerholm (Save the Children, Sweden)

MEROPE 1

5. *Social protection: Social services / Health services*

Moderator: Mr. Valentin Burada (Civil Society Development Foundation / FOND, Romania)

Ms. Marie Laluque (Solidarite Laique, France) / Ms. Cristina Bucată (NGOs Federation for Children, Romania)

Ms. Veronica Vîlcu (Alături de Voi / Close to You Foundation, Romania)

15.30 - 16.00

Coffee break

16.00 - 17.00

5 Thematic Panels (continued / same locations)

17.00 - 19.00

Meeting with the representatives of the Chamber of Deputies of the Romanian Parliament, the Palace of Parliament

19.30

Dinner Radisson SAS

Friday, 30 October 2009

Panels

9.00 - 9.30

Introductory remarks / Key note speeches

ATLAS 2

Moderator: Mr. Ionuț Sibian (Civil Society Development Foundation, Romania)

- Mr. Leonard Orban, European Commissioner for Multilingualism
- Mr. Bogdan Mazuru, State Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Romania
- H.E. Mr. Mats Åberg, Swedish Ambassador in Bucharest, on behalf of the Swedish Presidency of the EU

09.30 - 10.00

Coffee break

10.00 - 12.30

Black Sea NGOs in Times of Crisis

ATLAS 2

Moderator: Mr. Ionuț Sibian (Civil Society Development Foundation, Romania)

Regional overview - Ms. Alina Inayeh (Black Sea Trust, Romania)

Country-specific remarks:

- Armenia - Mr. Boris Navasardian (Yerevan Press Club)
- Azerbaijan - Mr. Erkin Gadirli (The Citizen's Union "Republican Alternative")
- Georgia - Mr. Ucha Nanuashvili (Human Rights Center)
- R. Moldova - Mr. Igor Munteanu (Institute for Development and Social Initiatives - IDIS Viitorul)
- Russia - Ms. Tatyana Valentinovna Lyskina (Southern Regional Resources Center)

12.30 - 14.00

Lunch

14.00 - 15.30

5 Thematic Panels

ATLAS 2

1. Democracy: Fair elections & Election monitoring

Moderator: Mr. Rodger Potocki (National Endowment for Democracy)

Mr. Ion Manole (Promo-LEX, R. Moldova)

Ms. Ekaterine Siradze-Delaunay (International Society for Fair Elections and Democracy, Georgia)

Mr. Anar Mammadli (Election Monitoring and Democracy Studies Center, Azerbaijan)

MEROPE 2

2. Human rights: Freedom of the media & Freedom of expression

Moderator: Mr. Mircea Toma (Media Monitoring Agency, Romania)

Mr. Emin Huseynov (Institute for Reporter Freedom and Safety, Azerbaijan)

Mr. Petru Macovei (Association of Independent Press, R. Moldova)

ELECTRA 2

3. Environment: Climate change / Black Sea regional cooperation

Moderator: Mr. Oleg Rubel (Black Sea Branch of Ukrainian Environmental Academy of Science)

Ms. Tamara Mtvarelidze (Caucasus Environmental NGO Network, Georgia)

ELECTRA 1

4. Children rights: Child protection / Violence against children

Moderator: Ms. Gabriela Alexandrescu (Save the Children/FOND, Romania)

Ms. Karin Fagerholm (Save the Children, Sweden)

MEROPE 1

5. Social protection: Social services / Health services

Moderator: Mr. Valentin Burada (Civil Society Development Foundation / FOND, Romania)

Ms. Marie Laluque (Solidarite Laique, France) / Ms. Cristina Bucată (NGOs Federation for Children, Romania)

Ms. Veronica Vilcu (Alături de Voi / Close to You Foundation, Romania)

15.30 - 16.00

Coffee break

16.00 - 17.00

5 Thematic Panels (continued / same locations)

17.00 - 19.00

Meeting with the representatives of the Chamber of Deputies of the Romanian Parliament, the Palace of Parliament

19.30

Dinner Radisson SAS

Friday, 30 October 2009

Panels

9.30 - 10.30

5 Cross-cutting Panels

MEROPE 1

1. *Strengthening Civil Society*

Moderator: Mr. Ionuț Sibian (Civil Society Development Foundation, Romania)
Mr. Balazs Sator (Civil Society Development Foundation, Hungary)
Mr. Levent Korkut (Civil Society Development Centre, Turkey)

MEROPE 2

2. *Advocacy & Policy*

Moderator: Ms. Oana Preda (Resource Center for Public Participation, Romania)
Mr. Vahan Asatryan (International Center for Human Development, Armenia)
Mr. Gubad Ibadoglu Bayramov (Economic Research Center, Azerbaijan)
Ms. Antonia Fonari (Social NGO Network, R. Moldova)

ELECTRA 1

3. *Financial Sustainability & Fundraising*

Moderator: Ms. Olivia Baci (Partners Foundation for Local Development/FOND, Romania)
Mr. Zaal Anjaparidze (Eurasia Partnership Foundation, Georgia)
Mr. Ben Rattenbury (Euclid Network, UK)
Ms. Lenka Surotchak (Pontis Foundation, Slovakia)

ELECTRA 2

4. *Legitimacy of the sector & Relations with governments*

Moderator: Mr. Luben Panov (Bulgarian Center for Not-For-Profit Law, Bulgaria)
Ms. Tetyana Danyliv (GURT Resource Centre, Ukraine)
Ms. Dana Niculescu (Opportunity Associates, Romania)

TAYGETE

5. *Volunteering & Citizen participation*

Moderator: Mr. Viorel Micescu (Assistance Center For Nongovernmental Organizations - Centras/FOND, Romania)
Ms. Carmen Marcu (National Volunteer Center - Pro Vobis, Romania)
Mr. Eduard Mihalas (Youth for the Right to Live Association / National Youth Council, R. Moldova)

10.30 - 10.45

Coffee break

10.45 - 12.30

5 Cross-cutting Panels (continued / same locations)

12.30 - 14.00

Lunch

14.00 - 15.00

NGO Fair (* country stands)

15.00 - 17.00

Study visit to Romanian NGOs

19.00

Dinner at Diplomatic Club

Saturday, 31 October 2009

Plenary Session

9.00 - 11.00 Donors' perspectives

ELECTRA 1-2

Moderator: Ms. Dorina Năstase (Representation of the European Commission in Romania)

- Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs - Ms. Mihaela Rutjens (Head of Division for Development Assistance)
- USAID - Ms. Caryn Wilde (General Development Officer)
- Black Sea Basin Joint Operational Programme, Romanian Ministry of Development, Public Works and Housing - Ms. Sorina Canea (Programme Manager)
- Soros Foundation - Mr. Mark Baczoni (Program Officer)

11.00 - 11.30 Coffee break

11.30 - 13.00 Final conclusions and discussions

ELECTRA 1-2

Moderator: Mr. Valentin Burada (Civil Society Development Foundation/FOND Romania)

Reports Day 1

Reports Day 2

Recommendations & Next steps (Steering Committee)

13.00 - 14.30 Lunch

Departures

19.30 Dinner Radisson SAS



II. Black Sea NGO Forum 2009: „NGOs in Times of Crisis”

Address by European Commissioner for Multilingualism Leonard Orban to the Second Black Sea NGO Forum
Bucharest
29 October 2009

Mr. Ambassador Aberg,
Mr. Secretary of State,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure to attend the Black Sea NGO Forum and I want to thank you for this invitation.

I wish to welcome the presence here of the State Secretary for European Affairs, Mr. Bogdan Mazuru, and of the Swedish Ambassador to Romania, Mr. Mats Aberg, on behalf of the Swedish Presidency of European Union.

I also wish to thank all those who are part of the team that organized this event: the Non Governmental Development Organizations Platform, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the European Commission Representation in Romania and the Black Sea Trust for Regional Cooperation.

This is the second edition of the Forum. The first edition, last year, led to an impressive number of concrete proposals. Thus, it is very important that this second edition match at least the results of the last year's event.

I do believe that, by establishing this Forum as an annual event, the civil society from the Black Sea region will be able to create a true network, which will develop not only in terms of its regional relevance, but also in the number of common initiatives and actions.

The Black Sea region has gained in the last few years a growing geopolitical importance, as the meeting point of three continents.

It is a region with unique characteristics, with diverse and rich cultures and languages, with people who are strongly aware of their history, and who are determined to look to the future in a constructive manner.

There remain also a series of problems in the area. We are all aware of them. But we must do all that is possible to give to the people of this region the opportunity to use their hugely important human resources.

The European Union attaches a great deal of interest to this area, especially after the accession of Romania and Bulgaria to the EU.

This growing interest is reflected in the European Neighborhood Policy, in the pre-accession dialogue with Turkey and in the Strategic Partnership with Russia.

Within the European Neighborhood Policy, over the last years, two important initiatives were launched: the *Black Sea Synergy*, in 2008 and the *Eastern Partnership* in 2009.

Through their distinct approaches and specific mechanisms, these two initiatives create real opportunities for strengthening both the cooperation between the countries in the Black Sea region and the European Union, and regional cooperation.

The Black Sea Synergy is already functional. Besides such ongoing activities as those in the field of telecommunications technology, we will soon launch *three important sectoral partnerships: on environment, transports and energy*.

The Black Sea Synergy is a European Union initiative one of the *raisons d'être* of which is to be inclusive. It is open to all countries from the wider Black Sea region.

The three days of activities of this Forum correspond to the spirit of the Black Sea Synergy: nongovernmental organizations from different regions are here to find common solutions for the daily challenges we all face.

This region faces problems that no state can solve alone. At the same time, the region offers a variety of opportunities for different forms of cooperation that have never been used until now. We wish to contribute to the identification of these opportunities and, as much as possible, to put them into practice.

All this has to be done in close consultation with the civil society.

Therefore, we have had a broad consultation with our civil society partners in our elaboration of the Action Plans for the European Neighborhood Policy, and we count on the civil society input when we will assess the progress made in implementing these plans.

We have conducted this consultation firstly through the diplomatic activities of the Representations and Delegations of the European Commission in the Black Sea countries. This year, as part of this exercise, we have launched on the European Commission web site an open call for suggestions from the civil society, in order to help build up on these plans.

The civil society will play an equally important role in the Eastern Partnership.

Firstly, respect for civil rights, including the freedom of association, is a clear precondition from the European Union when negotiating Association Agreements with partner countries from the East.

Secondly, the European Commission has proposed the creation of a *Civil Society Forum within the Eastern Partnership*, in order to promote networking between NGOs, and also to facilitate their dialogue with public authorities.

Thirdly, *the Platform on democracy, good governance and stability* will include among its aims the promotion of contacts between civil society organizations, so as to improve their capacities and facilitate confidence-building in areas affected by protracted conflicts.

In the face of such great challenges, I believe we can identify great opportunities. To be true, a great deal of effort lies ahead.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The agenda for the debates of the following three days reflects the challenges and opportunities which I have referred to, and I am convinced that it will provide for interesting and constructive debates.

I wish to assure you of the constant support of the European Commission in your efforts to stimulate cooperation in an area characterized not only by a multitude of problems, but also by a superb cultural diversity.

I wish you good luck in all.

Thank you for your attention.



Address by State Secretary for European Affairs Bogdan Mazuru at the Second Black Sea NGO Forum

Commissioner Orban,
Ambassador Aberg,
Distinguished guests,

I am truly honored to attend, together with the European Commissioner for Multilingualism, Mr. Leonard Orban, **the Second Black Sea NGO Forum**, all the more so as on 31 October we are celebrating the Black Sea Day. I am happy that we all can see how this project is gaining ground and is having an impact, growing into a tradition appreciated externally, and reflected in the partnerships which the Foreign Ministry wants to forge with the civil society in general.

First of all I would like to **emphasize the remarkable capacity of civil society in the Black Sea region for mobilization and solidarity**, at a time when the global geopolitical climate is characterized by political instability, economic threats and unconventional risks which dominate the agenda of all governments. This is a difficult time for both governments and society, for both NGOs and donors, but **we must look for motivations and opportunities** in order to achieve what we have proposed ourselves to do and. Once these difficulties are overcome, we will emerge more powerful, more united and more dynamic.

The Romanian Foreign Ministry has supported and will support any civil society initiative meant to promote openness, flexibility, multiple partnerships, through projects beneficial to the entire region. Romania has backed the EU initiative of the **Black Sea Synergy** from the very beginning. The support offered to the Black Sea NGO Forum proves that we are ready to contribute to the materialization of proposals promoted by the EU in this frame.

We welcome also the support of the European Commission and *The Black Sea Trust for Regional Cooperation* in organizing this edition of the Forum. At the same time, I would like to emphasize the Foreign Ministry's appreciation for the efforts made by FOND and FDSC to coordinate this second edition. This is not an easy time and this initiative is not easy to implement, but the results motivate us all. **We hope that the model of cooperation established between partners and organizers to shore up the Black Sea projects will be continued and will be a source of inspiration** for other governments, organizations and initiatives in this region.

Civil society in Romania has gone through a vast process of transformation and consolidation over the past few years. On the basis of this experience and by joining the governmental and international policies for the Black Sea region, **civil society in Romania can and must assume an important role in coagulating regional cooperation and public-private partnerships**. You have the capacity to build bridges between civil society in the Black Sea states and civil society in the European states - or even with more remote partners; this is an advantage well worth being used for the benefit of the Black Sea region and the EU.

We are obviously aware that **civil society in this region is facing difficulties**, a fact we are reminded of by the very topic of this year's Forum (*NGOs in Times of Crises*). The implementation of your projects encounters



obstacles generated by underfunding, a still limited capacity to propose ambitious and yet feasible projects, insufficient information about the instruments and programs available for this region and, last but not least, a fragile political-economic context.

In its regional policy, **Romania has permanently laid emphasis on the need for recognizing the special role of civil society** - a bridge between governmental policies and the realities on the ground, a channel of communication between communities and political leaders, a partner in the implementation of projects with local, national and regional benefits. It is our duty to facilitate the consolidation of civil society and its insertion into the European and global networks, because this tendency also benefits us, the governments.

Distinguished guests,

We are aware that for the states in our Eastern neighborhood, the motivation of their project of integrating the European structures has to be strengthened by a growing involvement on the part of the European Union. **We are in favor of a progressive rapprochement with the EU by the states from our Eastern neighborhood, as an engine of transformation and a way towards completing the area of stability and prosperity at the level of the entire European continent.** This process comes in direct continuation of the logic of the European project, it is an inclusive and constructive project, not one directed against others, nor operating in a logic of exclusion.

We are engaged in extending the EU's approach towards its Eastern neighborhood, by complementing the political dimension with concrete steps and tangible benefits for societies and citizens in the states of the region. We need a higher level of ambition and interaction in the relationship between the EU and the region, to show how beneficial both the Black Sea Synergy and the Eastern Partnership are.

The potential for cooperation projects is enormous and it is up to us, Member States and partner states, to find efficient ways to make the most of each available instrument. Complementarity of projects, avoiding duplication, an orientation towards concrete results, as well as funding according to these results, are the main principles that guide all of us in using these European instruments.

In this wider context, **the nongovernmental dimension is an opportunity for the Black Sea Synergy to prove its openness, and its applicability to a whole range of subjects of cooperation.** Through the continuation of the Forum, under the Black Sea Synergy aegis, both **Romania and the European Commission reiterate their commitment in this respect.**

The continuity of this process should bring about **a greater awareness of similarities, of common needs and objectives, a process useful to the region and to the evolution of the European Union's approach towards its Eastern neighborhood.** Thus, we hope to take one more step towards involving EU in regional evolutions, including by increased European funds for successful regional projects. This would provide a significant impetus for revitalizing cooperation at all levels and establishing a regional agenda connected to European developments.

As far as we are concerned, the Foreign Ministry, as national coordinator of the policy of international cooperation for development, has identified the main areas in which **Romania can share from its experience to the partner countries,** in economic reforms, the consolidation of democracy and the rule of law, good governance, education, health care, infrastructure and environmental protection. **I encourage all the participants and organizations represented here to take advantage of this opportunity for wider contact, to concentrate on forging partnerships and identifying concrete and sustainable projects**

in these areas, which can be implemented in the follow-up process of this edition and in the preparation for next year's edition.

Ladies and Gentleman,

Essentially, the great objective rallying us all behind it is that of „upgrading” cooperation in the Black Sea region and between the region and the European Union. In this way we all want to contribute to promoting stability, the common values, to implementing courageous reforms in the Black Sea countries and developing a new political culture of cooperation. Our support for developing this tradition is above all an invitation extended to all the partners in the region and in the EU to join us and come up with new projects in a region which should be rich also in promises, not only in vulnerabilities.

I wish you great success and pragmatism!



Black Sea NGOs in Times of Crisis

*Report on the plenary session**



** (The content of the report represents the collection of ideas and contribution expressed by the participants at the Forum during the three days of discussions).*

There are various crises affecting the region: financial crisis, the geopolitical crisis. A democracy crisis has been continuing since 1989 and various local identity crisis are very specific for the Black Sea region where numerous conflicts have been lingering in for decades.

Still, it is not the crises which are important but the NGOs are. It is so because NGOs are made for crisis. They are more effective when they are facing crisis. In all of the countries in the region civil society are able to provide solutions to so many of the existing problems.

In times of crisis NGO workers are becoming braver and bolder. They are speaking out for their cause, and their commitment is far more challenged and tested by circumstances.

NGOs do a better job bringing together the society. In this way they can influence the political agenda. They are better at that than the Government. They also become better in influencing the political agenda.

Regional NGO cooperation is becoming a visible reality in the Black Sea area. There are more and more NGOs working across borders. NGOs from Turkey and Armenia are working together, from Ukraine and Russia, but also from Romania and Russia, and there can be more and more examples of bridging societies. The cross border cooperation gets bigger and better. The more opportunities for regional cooperation are created, the more joint initiatives will result. There are more and more NGOs from the wider Black Sea region working across borders. NGOs in the region are drawn together by the need to gain more support for their causes, often because this support cannot be expressed in their home countries. This is needed because in times of crisis, the NGO sector is becoming a sort of a dissident type of environment. It requires moral courage and networking experience.

The Black Sea is a very diverse region, and it is unlikely that in the near future there will be a Black Sea identity. Instead there are many regional dimensions. Therefore it is not so important to have a common cultural identification, yet is essential that we can solve the problems regionally. We do not need a Black Sea Union. Instead, if we can start to address the regional issues in a regional way, in order to find a common solution, we will succeed.

The context in which NGO operate is different in each of the country in the Black Sea region. However, in different moments in their history, NGOs in each country had to face similar problems which affect the others.

Conflicts are a factor which prevents democratization of many countries in the region. The hate of the neighbor does not strengthen the civil society.

Freedom of expression is not respected and the NGO sector is marginalized.



Governments still use the tool of depriving NGOs of registration or imposing new legislative constraints whenever they want to shut them up. On the other hand, there are some NGOs which have a privileged access to resources from their Governments and which are either directly created by Governments or are totally loyal and uncritical to them.

Financially, NGOs remain weak and depend largely on the international donors. Lack of financial stability often leads to a lack of professionalization and sustainability.

For historical and cultural reasons, many of the problems and solutions are common:

The NGO sector in Armenia is facing increased pressure from the Government. New requirements seem meant to make NGO existence more difficult. NGOs are involved in regional cooperation, yet the Government does not regard civil society as a partner.

NGOs in Azerbaijan also face hardship from the Government. Compared to the '90s when people were poor but enjoyed more freedom, the present reveals that prosperity does not automatically bring more liberty and democracy. A Government which relies on huge revenues from oil production has ceased to be responsive to both its own citizens and the international community. It enjoys enough resources to ignore appeals from both international actors and own population. A recent legislation was proposed which has been seen as an attempt to suppress NGO activities. A large scale mobilization, campaigns in Azerbaijan and abroad prevented the Government to adopt the proposed amendments. Nonetheless, more oppressive measures are expected in the near future.

In Georgia, the Rose Revolution has had a paradoxical effect on the NGOs activity. Many Georgian NGOs feel excluded from the public space, and the NGO sector has become very polarized on political lines. NGOs that are critical towards the Government are marginalized. Freedom of expression is perceived as being a serious problem as the Government controls the main media. Most NGOs are based in the capital. Especially after the war activities of NGOs in the separatist areas became very difficult. After the Rose Revolution, donors have decreased funding for NGOs. The level of funding improved again after the war with Russia, in August 2008. Georgia has a strong civil society in the region, but the problems are the law, the war and the lack of freedom of expression.

During the April 2009 events, NGOs in the Republic of Moldova proved to be very brave and human rights watchdogs used very well their European networks. The last communist regime in Europe aimed to abolish not only civil society but all means for freedom of communication. The aim of Moldovan NGOs in the new context is to support the Europeanization of the country and to help strengthen administrative capacity for the new Government.

In Russia, nominally, civil society is huge in terms of numbers of registered NGOs. In fact, only half of them can be considered part of the genuine civil society. Russian NGOs face many internal problems: lack of financial resources, lack of

and these new organizations tend to be more specialized and more experienced. However, there is a lack of public support, partly because of the Government direct influence on the public opinion. Regional authorities are a very important instrument of power and corruption in Russia is very high and well rooted. NGOs are not treated like equals; they are rather viewed like an instrument of destabilization.

Reports on panels

Freedom of the media and freedom of expression

Freedom of expression is an essential element for the democratic and social development of all the countries in the Black Sea region. The degree to which media is free and the human right to express freely exist differs from one country to the other. During the dedicated workshop, the participants at the Black Sea NGO Forum took as case studies the situation of the freedom of expression of two countries in the Black Sea region: Azerbaijan and Republic of Moldova. The situation in the two countries reveals similarities with other cases in the region.

According to the Press Freedom Index published in 2009 by Reporters without Borders, most of the countries in the region are situated in the second half of the rankings (e.g.: of all the countries in the region, only 3 rank above the median, still far from ideal conditions: Greece ranks 35, Romania occupies the 50th position and Bulgaria the 68th; they are followed by Georgia - 81th, Ukraine - 89th, Armenia - 111th, Republic of Moldova 114th and Turkey - 122. Some of the richest countries in the region, Azerbaijan and Russia, rank 146th, respectively 153th, while Belarus is very close to the bottom of the group, occupying the 156th place. More worrying is the fact that in most of the countries the tendency is towards less freedom of expression.

There are several problems which have been identified during the Forum as affecting more of the countries in the region:

- the **written mass media** has very little influence, reaching very few citizens (in some countries only 1 or 2% of the population actually have access to journals and newspapers);
- although **television** is an important source of information, there are very few TV channels in some of the countries in the region, most of them controlled by the government and providing biased information. On the other hand, private companies encounter great difficulties in registering their TV channels;
- the **internet** has a limited impact in many of the countries in the region. Besides that, in some countries price for internet is prohibitive, limiting even more the access of population to alternative sources of information;
- **critical journalists** in many countries of the region continue to be intimidated, harassed, imprisoned and even assassinated;
- based on political and economic reasons (mostly for protecting their interest in the energy field), the **Western countries** are sometimes tempted to close their eyes on certain undemocratic aspects, particularly on the freedom of expression;

- in some countries, even though NGOs can access international funding for their activities in the field, there is a certain reluctance from local civil society organizations to do so because the **authorities can suspend their activity**.

Several recent cases have drawn the attention of the international community (the assassinations of journalists and human rights activists in the Northern Caucasus, imprisonment of Azeri bloggers or abuses by the communist authorities against journalists in the Republic of Moldova, prior to the latest elections).

This negative performance is seen as the result of the government promoting two agendas: one for the international community and the European Commission, reflecting a positive development of their countries; and an internal agenda, which does not respect fundamental rights.

Current legislative frameworks are generally acceptable, and in many of the countries they ensure the right to gatherings/ meetings and freedom of the press, but the government did not use any mechanisms to apply these laws.

Another negative aspect is the fact that the judicial system is not independent and this situation allows for abuses against the right to expression of the citizens and against journalists and human rights activists.

Except for the specialized organizations working on freedom of expression and freedom of the media, few other NGOs which work in various other fields, do mobilize in support of freedom of expression and of the media. If NGOs would be more united in coalitions, the results would be more visible.

Where changes are happening and state control over mass media becomes less powerful, most often the journalists are not prepared to face the new challenges and mass media tends to become very much politicized.

Children Rights

There is an important set of common problems affecting children rights in the Black Sea region:

- in many countries there are various laws regulating the protection of children rights, yet they are generally not enforced;
- labor migration, which has become a widespread phenomenon in the region has lead to a new risk: more and more children are left alone behind in their countries as their parents emigrate. Particularly in the case of parents seeking jobs in the EU the situation is more dramatic as they cannot travel freely back to their countries for fear of not being allowed to come back to the EU. A common strategy addressing this issue should be jointly produced by NGOs from the Black Sea region;
- although progress in some areas have happened, rights of children with disabilities continue to be violated in most of the countries of the region. In spite of existing favorable legislation, integration of children with disabilities into the society remains problematic, one of the main obstacles being social mentality. What is also missing is an operational system of monitoring and evaluation, partly because of a lack of genuine interest and openness of public authorities, but also because of the absence of financial resources, particularly as an effect of the global economic crisis;

- although in some countries of the region the problem of institutionalization of children in inadequate state facilities has been largely solved, in others the situation remains difficult;
- particularly in rural areas the situation of children remains very difficult. More often social services dedicated to children do not cover rural areas;
- other issues of joint concern for NGOs in the Black Sea region are: juvenile justice, protection of rights of children from ethnic minorities (e.g. Roma children), the situation of street children.

Violence against children is another widespread phenomenon in the Black Sea region.

There are various forms of violence to which children fall victims, ranging from war to more accepted domestic and school violence. Even in more advanced states, the risks are higher and violence against children increases in times of crisis.

Legislation is needed to forbid physical and any form of punishment in schools and outside the school. There is sufficient international legislation allowing for civil society organization to influence the situation at home:

1. Convention on the Rights of the Child;
2. European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms;
3. European Social Charter.

Only half of the countries of the Black Sea region have introduced a legal ban of violence against children in their legislation (Bulgaria, Greece, Republic of Moldova, Romania and Ukraine). However, even in these countries, legislation alone is not enough, as in the region there is a widespread problem with law enforcement. There is also need for awareness raising and monitoring.

Therefore supplementary efforts are needed to ensure that:

- specialized staff is trained to report cases of human rights' violations;
- awareness campaigns on the existing legislation banning punishment against children, involving public authorities, have a great impact among the citizens;
- continuous training sessions for parents;
- permanent monitoring;
- strong involvement of civil society organizations in promoting legislation change, raising awareness, monitoring and educating.
-

Key recommendations for the countries in the region:

- Strengthen national and local commitment and action
- Prohibit all violence against children
- Prioritize prevention
- Promote non-violent values and awareness-raising
- Enhance the capacity of all who work with and for children
- Provide recovery and social reintegration services
- Ensure participation of children
- Create accessible and child-friendly reporting systems and services
- Ensure accountability and end impunity
- Address the gender dimension of violence against children
- Develop and implement systematic national data collection and research

Strengthen international commitment

The strong ties which are being built between the countries from the Black Sea region and the EU through the European Neighborhood Policy provide an opportunity for reforms as well as additional funding to support these reforms. Good practices from Black Sea countries where reform is more advanced should be transferred to the other countries, and NGOs in the region have an excellent potential and capacity to contribute to that exchange.

Key recommendations for the NGOs in the region:

- Collaborate with UN Secretary General's Special Representative on violence against children,, UN Committee on the Rights of the child Council of Europe
- State actors (local authorities, donors)
- Local and regional NGOs
- Create dialogue with children
- Advocate for change (legislation, reporting mechanisms, resources)

Awareness raising campaigns and training targeted particularly at parents, teachers and children

Advocacy and policy are very important elements of NGO work around the Black Sea region. NGOs are identifying issues of relevance for various social groups, entire communities or all of the society and bring them on the public agenda and on the political agenda. The ability of NGOs to shape policies in their countries is essential, especially in areas where there is no or very limited administrative capacity. NGOs have often a practical expertise which they should be able to transfer in the realm of policy making.

The participants at the Forum stressed up several important features that NGOs should have for successful intervention in the policy making process:

- capacity to elaborate and to provide policy recommendations and policy briefs;
- capacity to combine experts' opinions with citizens' views in the recommendations for policy change;
- capacity to show public support when lobbying for a certain decision;
- capacity to achieve and use political commitment from politicians and/or decision makers;
- capacity to build coalitions: either "emergency" short term coalitions, or long term coalitions; diversity in membership could be an asset for a coalition;
- ability to involve donors and media in advocacy coalitions;
- ability to associate the international community with national advocacy efforts;
- capacity to combine diplomacy with straightforwardness ;
- capacity to raise media and citizens' support;
- find ways to involve politicians and/or decision makers in activities related with the campaign in order to get their support or commitment for the cause.

There are also important barriers in advocacy work, among which have been mentioned:

- if there's a private interest opposing with the public interest, chances are advocacy for public interest to fail;
- in areas where conflicts are strong or where the rule of law is weak, the advocates should expect intimidation from targeted authorities;
- when the politicians, decision makers, institutions and civil society do not share the same values, advocacy efforts would most probably fail;
- a very limited number of NGOs of those existent are involved in advocacy and influencing policies;
- those who attempt campaigning and mobilizing citizens often face reprisals from the Government.

Historically, NGOs in the Black Sea region, as part of an emerging civil society, are a recent creation. They are active in transformative environment where, more than in other parts of the world, there is a competition for power, legitimacy and an overall project of society and political life. NGOs are creation inspired and supported by Western democratic values acting in a globalized world. As such, particularly in the wider Black Sea region where identity and democracy crisis continue since 1989, relations between NGOs and governments are often tensed and public support remains weak. The question of legitimacy of the NGO sector is essential in terms of identity, while the issue of the relations between NGOs and the government is equally essential, often for reasons which relate to the very survival of NGOs.

In terms of legitimacy, in the Black Sea region, NGOs have to face a series of common stereotypes. According to these stereotypes NGOs fall in one or more of the following categories:

- Only looking for money
 - Not professional
 - Can't be trusted
 - Deal with money laundering
- Hollow structures (no real activity)

Cooperation with their Governments comes as either joint activities, or through funding provided by the state to NGOs. However, most of the time, for the official representatives, cooperation represents simply to attend at NGOs events. In cases where institutional arrangements for cooperation with civil society exist (governmental structures, committees, etc.) they are rather decorative and do not function.

The problems which have been the most often mentioned as the cause of the lack of cooperation with the Government are:

- Government claims that NGOs are not professional and are not representative/legitimate
 - Lack of adequate laws and formal process for cooperation
 - Lack of information, and consequently of impact
 - Governments are selective and tend to listen to NGOs that are not critical towards them
- Ideology of the governments which sometimes set up NGOs to confuse public opinion

There are also problems which belong with the inner fabric of NGOs themselves and they include:

- Lack of self regulation (including lack of umbrella organizations)
- Lack of common NGO position
- Lack of NGO transparency
- Lack of professionalization
- NGOs (not) allowing too much compromise when they talk to government

In terms of funding, there are several issues which have a strong impact on the relation between NGOs and their national governments:

- Possibility to become dependent on state funding
- Possibility to legitimize bad practices of state funding or get bad image
- Donors supporting governments might be less eager to support watchdogs
- Insufficient funding mechanisms

EU funding goes through the state

The participants to the Black Sea NGO Forum have proposed a series of solutions to increase legitimacy and to improve cooperation with the governments:

- Coalition building
- Black Sea platform to raise voices of local NGOs to EU, governments, etc.
- Disseminate good practices
- Create mechanisms/laws for formalizing the process
- Raise transparency of both NGOs and government
- Information mechanism for NGOs (portal)
- Advocate for a formal institution for dealing with NGOs
- Listen to grassroots NGOs as well



Donors perspective
Report on the plenary session



Mr. Mark Cunningham from the Black Sea Trust for Regional Cooperation remarked the fact that the Black Sea NGO Forum represents a clear sign that the EU acknowledges the importance of the region and of the role of the Black Sea civil society. Civic participation, cross-border cooperation initiatives, exchange of experience among Black Sea NGOs are concrete ways to facilitate cooperation in the region.

The Black Sea region is very complex and dynamic, and the Black Sea NGO Forum represents a good opportunity to change the perception of the Governments about the region.

The Black Sea Trust has adopted flexibility as one of its main principles, particularly in these times of crisis when capacity to adapt quickly to the local needs has become crucial. It also believes that there are several common elements which all the donors should cover: knowledge of the local context and specificity, coordination (essential for the maximization of resources and impact), risk analysis, grant size, swiftness (ensuring the shortest time between the submission of a grant application and its evaluation).

Mrs. Mihaela Rutjens from the Division of Development Assistance of the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs has introduced the recent experience of Romania as re-emerging donor. Although Romania joined the EU in 2007, its experience as a donor dates back from the communist regime. In the '70-'80, Romania was providing development assistance to African and Middle East countries amounting several hundred million Euros. At present Romania has a double position: on one hand, Romania is a donor country; on the other hand, Romania continues to receive itself substantial financial aid from the European Union through the European structural funds. Romania is also interested in learning from other donors' experiences while preserving its national specificity. Romania has announced its intention to support in 2010 several NGO projects in the Republic of Moldova and in Georgia, two priority countries for the Romanian development cooperation policy. It will also continue its support for Black Sea regional projects.

Mrs. Caryn Wilde from the USAID office in the Republic of Moldova has emphasized the essential role of the civil society in any genuine democracy, as the place where each citizen can express freely. However, in order for the civil society to exist, it needs an infrastructure. In the Republic of Moldova, USAID supports several priorities: democratization, alignment with EU member states, development of the third sector, participatory democracy, and economic growth. The number of NGOs in the region has increased significantly. For the support of NGOs in the Republic of Moldova, USAID's main instrument is the **Moldova Civil Society Strengthening Program**, with a budget of around 4 million USD.

Sorina Canea from the Joint Managing Authority of the Black Sea ENPI CBC program introduced the Black Sea Joint Operational Program 2007-2013. The Black Sea Basin Joint Operational Program 2007-2013 (JOP) is part of the European Neighborhood & Partnership Instrument (ENPI) of the EU and aims to contribute to a stronger and sustainable economic and social development of the regions of the Black Sea Basin.

The program's three specific objectives are:

1. Promoting economic and social development in the border areas
2. Working together to address common challenge
3. Promoting local, people-to-people cooperation

There are 10 participating countries in the Black Sea JOP, i.e. Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Turkey, Ukraine, Romania, and Greece.

The first call for proposal closed in October 2009. 168 project applications were submitted to the first call. To the initial funds allocated for this call (4 million Euro), the EU has added a supplementary 1 million Euro.

Mr. Mark Baczoni from the Open Civil Society Institute has stressed out that in a crisis situation as the current one, NGOs play an even more important role.

In this context, the “Emergency Fund” - an international program created by George Soros to diminish the negative effects of the global financial crisis in Central Europe, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe and Central Asia - is attaching a particular importance to the role of NGOs in mitigating the social and economic impact of the crisis.

The “Emergency Fund” is addressing especially the vulnerable groups hit the hardest by the crisis and encourages innovative interventions, aimed at maintaining support for open society values and at strengthening social solidarity.

The eligible organizations are NGOs, non-profit and public institutions (such as: schools, theatres, community cultural centers, social assistance centers etc) that have projects addressed to vulnerable groups hit by the crisis in their portfolio.

The Black Sea NGO Fellowship Program

The Secretariat of the Black Sea NGO is proud to introduce the new **Black Sea NGO Fellowship Program (BSNFP)**.

The program, launched with the support of the Black Sea Trust, will be opened for mid-career NGO representatives from seven countries in the Black Sea Region (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Russia, Turkey and Ukraine).

The BSNFP program which will take place in **February-June 2010** will consist of hosting one NGO representative out of each of the seven countries for one month with the Black Sea NGO Forum Secretariat in Bucharest.

The program is addressed to mid-career professionals from the NGO sector, working in different domains (human rights, environment, democracy, social protection etc.) They will be working for one month together with the staff of the Black Sea NGO Forum Secretariat in Bucharest.

The main activities of the fellows will be:

- Study-visits to Romanian NGOs and public authorities. The meetings will allow the fellows to get to know the NGO sector in Romania and its relations with the Romanian public authorities. Sharing information, learning about previous initiatives, challenges or partnerships, presenting examples of best practices or study-cases will enable the fellows to interact with the Romanian society and increase their knowledge and experience.
- Country-presentation seminar for NGOs in Romania. During the seminar which is to be held in Bucharest during their stay, the fellows will present the NGO sector in their countries and answer related questions. The 7 seminars will be attended by representatives of NGOs in Romania and public authorities.
- Black Sea NGO Newsletter & Black Sea NGO website. Each issue of the Black Sea NGO Newsletter will focus on a particular country during the fellowship program. The fellows will be involved in editing the specific issue of the newsletter dedicated to their own country. The fellows will support the team of the Secretariat in creating and developing web site sections for each of their countries in order to increase the level of country-information available on the website. They will make use of their home NGO contacts and maintain constant exchange of information with NGOs in their country.

The Fellowship Program is designed to work in two directions: on one hand the fellows and their sending organizations will benefit from increased expertise and knowledge of the region; on the other hand, the fellows' work within the Secretariat of the Forum will benefit the communication activities of the Black Sea NGO Secretariat and the Black Sea NGO Forum as an initiative, with the aim of increasing the level of mutual awareness and cooperation in the wider Black Sea region.

More details about the program will be available on www.BlackSeaNGO.org and in the Black Sea NGO Newsletter.

The Black Sea NGO Reports

A set of country reports on specific NGO issues will be produced each year by experts from each of the participating countries. The reports will be based on a common methodology which will allow comparison and progress assessments. The specific topics of the reports will be decided each year by an advisory group which will include experts and researchers from each of the countries involved. The reports will be launched and debated each year during the Forum.

The Black Sea NGO Thematic seminars

Throughout the year, the secretariat of the Forum will support the organization of thematic seminars on specific topics relevant for the NGOs in the Black Sea region. Seminars will be organized in various countries around the Black Sea region and will include participants from all of the countries. Conclusions and proposals issued from the seminars will become part of the agenda of the next Black Sea NGO Forum.

The Black Sea NGO Portal

The secretariat of the Forum will develop a Black Sea NGO Portal, starting from the web page of the Forum and the already existing Black Sea NGO monthly newsletter. The portal will include information on civil society activities in each of the participating countries. It will be based on country and thematic sections. The portal will include useful information on events, funding opportunities and partnerships at regional level. It aims to become a reliable source of information at regional level and data base of good practices and contacts.

The Black Sea NGO Civic Engagement Prize

Each year, during the Forum, a special prize will be awarded to one NGO activist or organization from the Black Sea region. The prize will be the recognition of the impact of one individual's or organization's work at national or regional level. One nominee will be selected by organizations from each country based on a clear set of criteria. The final selection will be done by a jury made up of distinguished NGO representatives, members of the academia, cultural life, journalists, MEPs as well as representatives of international organizations and Governments.

Black Sea NGO Forum 2009
 Second edition: 'NGOs in Times of Crisis'
 Bucharest, 29 - 31 October

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

No.	Mr./Mrs.	Surname	First Name	Organisation	Function	Country
1	Mr.	Azatryan	Vahan	International Center for Human Development (ICHD)	Research and Development Specialist	Armenia
2	Mr.	De Silva	Victor Prasanna	World Vision Armenia (WVA)	Organizational Ministry Capacity Director	Armenia
3	Ms.	Devrikyan	Rubina	Armenia Inter-Church Charitable Round Table Foundation (ART)	Program Officer	Armenia
4	Mr.	Grigoryan	Amen	Analytical Centre on Globalization and Regional Cooperation (ACGRIC)	Program Manager, Head of the Youth Department	Armenia
5	Ms.	Jhanglryan	Svetlana	Nagorno-Karabakh Committee "Helsinki Initiative-92"	Executive Director	Armenia
6	Ms.	Kalantaryan	Anahit	Bridge of Hope	Project Coordinator	Armenia
7	Mr.	Khurshudyan	Hovsep	National Citizens' Initiative (NCI)	Coordinator	Armenia
8	Ms.	Kirakosyan	Hripsime	International Union of Black Sea Non-Governmental Organizations (IUBSNGO)	President	Armenia
9	Ms.	Mesropyan	Zhorzheta	Foundation Against Violation of Law (FAVL)	Social Worker	Armenia
10	Mr.	Navasardian	Boris	Yerevan Press Club (YPC)	President	Armenia
11	Mr.	Sargayan	Hakob	It's your choice (IYC)	coordinator	Armenia
12	Ms.	Sarukhanyan	Nune	Green Lane Agricultural Assistance NGO	President	Armenia
13	Ms.	Asgarova	Aytakin	Call for Health NGO Alliance	Coordinator	Azerbaijan
14	Mr.	Azizov	Barat	World Vision Azerbaijan	Senior Program Manager	Azerbaijan

15	Ms.	Baghirova	Irada	Karabakh Civil Council, Helsinki Citizens' Assembly (KCC, HCA)	Coordinator of projects	Azerbaijan
16	Mr.	Bayramov	Gubad ibadoglu	Economic Research Center for Economic and Social Development (CESD)	Chairman of Management Board	Azerbaijan
17	Mr.	Bayramov	Vugar		Chairman	Azerbaijan
18	Mr.	Gadirli	Erkin	European Commission Representation in Romania	Co-founder	Azerbaijan
19	Mr.	Guliyev	Nazir	Reliable Future Youth Organization (RFYO)	Vice-president	Azerbaijan
20	Mr.	Huseynov	Emin	Institute for Reporter Freedom and Safety	Chairman	Azerbaijan
21	Mr.	Mammadli	Anar	Election Monitoring and Democracy Studies Center	Chairman	Azerbaijan
22	Mr.	Shuseonov	Anar	Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan	Desk Officer Economic Affairs	Azerbaijan
23	Ms.	Cristeescu	Roxana	Crisis Management Initiative (CMI)	S. Programme Officer	Belgium
24	Ms.	Steel	Rebecca	TRIALOG / Concord EPAN	Policy Officer	Belgium
25	Ms.	Hristakeva	Valentina	Global Initiative on Psychiatry	Director	Bulgaria
26	Mr.	Marinov	Georgi	Black Sea NGO Network (BSNN)	Expert	Bulgaria
27	Mr.	Metodiev	Emil	CEGA Foundation	Coordinator	Bulgaria
28	Mr.	Panov	Luben	Bulgarian Center for Not-For-Profit Law (BCNL)	Program Director	Bulgaria
29	Mr.	Radomirski	Valentin	Embassy of the Republic of Bulgaria in Romania	Ambassador	Bulgaria
30	Mr.	Kobilzka	Pavel	Embassy of the Czech Republic in Romania	Counsellor	Czech Republic
31	Mr.	Orban	Leonard	European Commission	European Commissioner for Multilingualism	EU
32	Ms.	Laliuque	Marie	Solidarte Laïque	Chargée de Mission	France
33	Ms.	Akhalkatsel	Ani	Open Society Georgia Foundation (OSGF)	Civil Society Support Program Coordinator	Georgia
34	Mr.	Anlaparidze	Zaal	Eurasia Partnership Foundation	Civil Society Program Manager	Georgia
35	Ms.	Jibuti	Tea	Welfare Foundation (WF)	Project Manager	Georgia
36	Ms.	Kupunia	Teona	World Vision International in Georgia (WVG)	Human Rights Program Manager	Georgia
37	Mr.	Mirzashvili	Mikheil	Crisis Management Initiative (CMI)	Senior project manager Peace, Mediation and dialogue	Georgia
38	Ms.	Mtshvelidze	Tamar	Caucasus Environmental NGO Network (CENN)	Environmental Sciences and Policy Specialist	Georgia
39	Mr.	Nanuaashvili	Ucha	Human Rights Center (HR/C)	Founder, Executive Director	Georgia
40	Ms.	Ochigava	Maia	Caucasus Green Area (CGA)	Deputy Director	Georgia

41	Ms.	Stradze-Delauany	Ekaterine	International Society for Fair Elections and Democracy (ISFED)	Executive Director	Georgia
42	Ms.	Tsalala	Manana	Biological Farming Association "Eikana" (Eikana)	Advocacy Officer	Georgia
43	Ms.	Karydi	Konstantina	Hellenic Foundation for European & Foreign Policy (ELIAMEP)	Junior Research Fellow	Greece
44	Mr.	Beczon	Mark	Soros Foundation - Open Society Institute	Program Officer	Hungary
45	Mr.	Sator	Balazs	Civil Society Development Foundation (CSDF)	Executive Director	Hungary
46	Ms.	Costin	Doina	Independent Journalism Center	Media Law Unit Coordinator	Moldova
47	Ms.	Fonari	Antonita	Social NGO Network		Moldova
48	Mr.	Hurmuzachi	Iurie	AGROInform		Moldova
49	Mr.	Lupan	Vlad	National Democratic Institute (NDI)	Independent Expert	Moldova
50	Mr.	Macovei	Petru	Association of Independent Press	Executive Director	Moldova
51	Mr.	Mămăligă	Anatol	EveryChild Moldova	Communication Advocacy and Fundraising Manager	Moldova
52	Ms.	Manoia	Ion	Promo-LEX Association	Executive Director	Moldova
53	Mr.	Melnic	Vlad	Eurasia Moldova		Moldova
54	Mr.	Mihalas	Eduard	Youth for the Right to Live Association (TDV) / National Youth Council Moldova	Executive Director	Moldova
55	Mr.	Moldovanu	Iosif	Child Rights Information Centre (CRIC)	Board Member	Moldova
56	Mr.	Munteanu	Igor	Institute for Development and Social Initiatives (IDIS Viltoni)	Executive Director	Moldova
57	Ms.	Nacu	Victoria	Youth Governing Institute	Program Coordinator	Moldova
58	Mr.	Nelcovschi	Serghei	National Assistance and Information centre for NGOs in Moldova (CONTACT)	Executive Director	Moldova
59	Mr.	Pivovarov	Igor	Promo-LEX Association		Moldova
60	Ms.	Sajina	Elena	Family Planning Association of Moldova	Executive Director	Moldova
61	Ms.	Wilde	Caryn	USAID Moldova	General Development Officer	Moldova
62	Mr.	Rutjens	Iwan	Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Romania	Justice and Home Affairs	Netherlands
63	Mr.	Grønbeek	Thyge	Embassy of the Kingdom of Norway in Romania	Counsellor	Norway
64	Mr.	Mengistu	Demmelash	World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) Norway	Advisor International	Norway
65	Mr.	Wysoch	Piotr	Embassy of Poland in Romania	First Secretary	Poland
66	Ms.	Aelenel	Anamaria	Black Sea Trust for Regional Cooperation (BST)	Program Assistant	Romania

67	Ms.	Alexandrescu	Gabriela	Save the Children Romania	Executive President	Romania
68	Ms.	Armean	Marilena	ESTUAR Foundation	Program Director	Romania
69	Ms.	Baciu	Olivia	Partners Foundation for Local Development (FPOL)	Program Manager and Trainer	Romania
70	Ms.	Bălan	Ana Maria	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Intern	Romania
71	Ms.	Barbu	Alina	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Intern	Romania
72	Mr.	Bertzi	Rares	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Intern	Romania
73	Mr.	Bledea	Daniel	Civil Society Development Foundation (FDSC)	PR Assistant	Romania
74	Ms.	Bobu	Cristina	Workshop without Borders	Assistant Development Projects	Romania
75	Ms.	Branda	Oana Elena	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Intern	Romania
76	Mr.	Bratu	Cezar	Federation of Romanian Development NGOs (FOND)	Intern	Romania
77	Ms.	Bratu	Irina	Federation of Romanian Development NGOs (FOND)	Intern	Romania
78	Ms.	Brezoi	Cristina	Civil Society Development Foundation (FDSC)	Training Coordinator	Romania
79	Mr.	Broasca	Stefano	Civil Society Development Foundation (FDSC)	Intern	Romania
80	Ms.	Bulat	Camelia	Center for International Private Enterprise (CIPE)	Program Director	Romania
81	Mr.	Burada	Valentin	Civil Society Development Foundation (FDSC)	Program Director	Romania
82	Ms.	Buzducea	Daniela	World Vision Romania (WVR) / FONPC	Director Advocacy / Vice-President	Romania
83	Ms.	Canea	Sorina	Ministry of Regional Development and Housing - Joint Managing Authority Black Sea CBC	Programme Manager	Romania
84	Ms.	Clucur	Viorela	Civil Society Development Foundation (FDSC)	Project Manager	Romania
85	Mr.	Colta	Alexandru	Chamber of Deputies - Parliament of Romania	Foreign Affairs Adviser to the President	Romania
86	Ms.	Constantin	Florentina	Confederation Caritas Romania (CCR)	Project Coordinator	Romania
87	Ms.	Copae	Teodora	Ministry of Internal Affairs	Project Officer	Romania
88	Ms.	Cozma	Codrina	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Intern	Romania
89	Ms.	Ceeke	Bianca	Peace Action, Training and Research Institute of Romania (PATRI)	Program Coordinator	Romania
90	Mr.	Cunningham	Mark	Black Sea Trust for Regional Cooperation (BST)	Program Officer	Romania
91	Ms.	Dulica	Andreea-Elena	Foundation for Democratic Change (FDC)	Assistant Manager	Romania
92	Ms.	Durlea	Alina	Swedish Organisation for Individual Relief (SOIR)	Psychologue	Romania
93	Ms.	Ganea	Liana	Media Monitoring Agency (AMP)		Romania
94	Ms.	Gasser	Stille	ESTUAR Foundation	Executive Director	Romania
95	Ms.	Griore	Aurelia	Civil Society Development Foundation (FDSC)	PR Manager	Romania

96	Ms.	Guga	Simina	Romanian Forum for Refugees and Migrants (ARCA)		Romania
97	Ms.	Husti-Răduleț	Laura	Soros Foundation	Communication Manager	Romania
98	Ms.	Inayeh	Alina	Black Sea Trust for Regional Cooperation (BST)	Director	Romania
99	Ms.	Ionescu	Camelia	World Wide Fund Danube-Carpathian Programme	Freshwater Coordinator	Romania
100	Ms.	Iorga	Elena	Institute for Public Policy (IPP)	Programmes Director	Romania
101	Mr.	Jacobsen	Kai	Peace Action, Training and Research Institute of Romania (PATRIIR)		Romania
102	Ms.	Leahu	Bianca	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Intern	Romania
103	Ms.	Loghin	Cristina	Caritas Confederation Romania / Renasis		Romania
104	Ms.	Lololu	Monica	Representation of the European Commission in Romania	Political Reporter Assistant	Romania
105	Ms.	Mănăliță	Raluca	Human Resources Specialists National Association (AJR)		Romania
106	Ms.	Marcu	Carmen	ProVobis		Romania
107	Ms.	Marinescu	Alina	Swedish Organisation for Individual Relief (SOIR)	Social Assistant	Romania
108	Ms.	Marza	Margareta	National Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux (ANBCC)		Romania
109	Mr.	Matveev	Denis	Peace Action, Training and Research Institute of Romania (PATRIIR)	Regional Director – Black Sea Programme	Romania
110	Mr.	Mazuru	Bogdan	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	State Secretary	Romania
111	Mr.	Mehedințu	Andrei	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Intern	Romania
112	Ms.	Mereuta	Karin	Human Resources Specialists National Association (AJR)		Romania
113	Ms.	Mircea	Stefania	Save the Children Romania	Program Coordinator	Romania
114	Ms.	Misu	Stivia	Civil Society Development Foundation (FDSC)	Training Manager	Romania
115	Ms.	Molculeșcu	Anamaria	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Third Secretary	Romania
116	Ms.	Moser	Stefanie	Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung - Rumanien	Representative for Romania	Romania
117	Ms.	Mustățea	Iulia	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Intern	Romania
118	Ms.	Năstase	Dorina	European Commission Representation in Romania	Political Reporter	Romania
119	Ms.	Neculeșcu	Annemarie	Black Sea Trust for Regional Cooperation (BST)	Office Manager	Romania
120	Ms.	Nicolescu	Dana	Opportunity Associates		Romania
121	Ms.	Novac	Rodica	Association for Organization Development ADO SAH ROM	Coordinator	Romania
				World Vision Romania		

123	Ms.	Oprisor	Anca	Romanian Academic Society (SAR)	Project Coordinator	Romania
124	Mr.	Paggi	Andrea	Civil Society Development Foundation (FDSC)	Intern	Romania
125	Ms.	Palade	Ruxandra	Civil Society Development Foundation (FDSC)	Events Organiser	Romania
126	Ms.	Pană	Izabella	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Intern DAsD	Romania
127	Ms.	Pătru	Cristina	Swedish Organisation for Individual Relief (SOIR)	Referent	Romania
128	Ms.	Păun	Alina	CREATIV Association	Project Coordinator	Romania
129	Ms.	Pelu	Oana	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Intern	Romania
				Federation of Romanian Development NGOs (FOND)		
130	Ms.	Perju	Oana		Intern	Romania
131	Ms.	Petrache	Iulia	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Intern	Romania
132	Ms.	Poiana	Sinziana - Elena	Romanian Academic Society (SAR)	Project Coordinator	Romania
133	Ms.	Popela	Anamaria	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Diplomatic Attache	Romania
134	Ms.	Popescu	Adela	Civil Society Development Foundation (FDSC)	Volunteer	Romania
135	Mr.	Popescu	Iulian	National Organisation of Romanian Scouts (ONCR)	Member National Board	Romania
				Resource Center for Public Participation (CeRe)		
136	Ms.	Preda	Oana			Romania
137	Ms.	Prescură	Carmen	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Intern	Romania
138	Mr.	Prodan	Călin	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Diplomatic Attache	Romania
139	Ms.	Rada	Iuliana	Civil Society Development Foundation (FDSC)	Project Manager	Romania
140	Ms.	Răducanu	Raluca	European Parliament, MEP Cristian Busol Office	Counsellor	Romania
141	Ms.	Ratyls	Alice	National Democratic Institute (NDI)		Romania
				Federation of Romanian Development NGOs (FOND)		
142	Ms.	Rusu	Adela		Platform Coordinator	Romania
					Head of Division for Development Assistance	
143	Ms.	Rutjens	Mihaela	Ministry of Foreign Affairs		Romania
144	Ms.	Sandu	Emilia	Swedish Organisation for Individual Relief (SOIR)	Director	Romania
145	Mr.	Sibian	Ionuț-Eugen	Civil Society Development Foundation (FDSC)	Executive Director	Romania
				Peace Action, Training and Research Institute of Romania (PATRIIR)		
146	Ms.	Șimon	Corina			Romania
147	Ms.	Stănilă	Carmen	Center for International Enterprise (CIPE)	Deputy Director	Romania
148	Ms.	Ștefan	Veronica	Romania Youth Council (CYC)	Vice-president	Romania
149	Ms.	Știrbu	Ludă-Maria	Terre des hommes Romania		Romania
150	Ms.	Ștolan	Magda	Romania Donors Forum		Romania
151	Mr.	Țicu	Cristian	Civil Society Development Foundation (FDSC)	Intern	Romania
152	Ms.	Timofticiuc	Elena	Aid-Rom		Romania
153	Mr.	Ținca	Ștefan	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	General Director for Political Affairs	Romania

154	Ms.	Toderean	Olivia	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Director Policy Planning Division	Romania
155	Mr.	Toma	Miroea	Media Monitoring Agency (AMP)		Romania
156	Ms.	Vlicu	Veronica	Close to You Foundation (Aldatul de Voi - ADV)	Director Social Economy Department	Romania
157	Ms.	Zaharia	Adriana	Federation of Romanian Development NGOs (FOND)	Project Assistant	Romania
158	Ms.	Abramenko	Oiga	Memorial	Director	Russia
159	Ms.	Kaspariantz	Daria	INDEM Foundation	international projects management	Russia
160	Ms.	Lyskina	Tatyana Valentinovna	Southern Regional Resources Center (SRRC)	Director	Russia
161	Ms.	Panikova	Svetlana	Krasnodar Regional Public Environmental Organization "Environmental Course" (Ecourse)	Uder	Russia
162	Mr.	Samsonov	Alexey	Embassy of the Russian Federation in Romania	Third Secretary	Russia
163	Ms.	Shibanova	Lilia	Association of non-commercial organizations in Defense of voters' rights "GOLOS"	Chairman of Board	Russia
164	Mr.	Struhar	Iozef	Embassy of the Slovak Republic in Romania	Attache	Slovakia
165	Ms.	Surotchak	Lenka	Pontis Foundation	Director	Slovakia
166	Mr.	Aberg	Mats	Embassy of Sweden in Romania	Ambassador	Sweden
167	Ms.	Fagerholm	Karin	Save the Children Sweden	Programme Officer - Europe Programme	Sweden
168	Ms.	Zache	Maria	Swedish Organisation for Individual Relief (SOIR)	Regional Desk Officer for Europe	Sweden
169	Ms.	Durna	Mustafa	Association of Committees for Monitoring Parliamentarians and Elected Officials (TUMIKOM)	General Coordinator	Turkey
170	Mr.	Erşen	Başak Tefik	Third Sector Foundation of Turkey (TUSEV)	Programme Director	Turkey
171	Ms.	Güçlüer	Ayşe Esra	Heisinki Yurttaşlar Demegöl Civil Society Development Center (STGM)	Assistance of projects and organizing volunteers	Turkey
172	Mr.	Korkut	Levent	Embassy of the Republic of Turkey in Romania	Chairman	Turkey
173	Ms.	Öztürk Meral	Naime	Embassy of the Republic of Turkey in Romania	Third Secretary	Turkey
174	Mr.	Tuğ	İlhan	Embassy of the Republic of Turkey in Romania	First Counsellor	Turkey
175	Mr.	Rattenbury	Ben	Euclid Network		UK
176	Ms.	Belitsaer	Natalia	Pylyp Orlyk Institute of Democracy (POID)	Expert/Senior Researcher	Ukraine
177	Ms.	Danyiliv	Tetyana	GURT Resource Centre	Executive Director	Ukraine
178	Ms.	Lutsenko	Ievgenia	Centre for Social and Gender Research "New Life"	Director	Ukraine

179	Mr.	Makarenko	Petro	Embassy of Ukraine in Romania	Secretary I	Ukraine
180	Mr.	Rubel	Oleg	Black Sea Branch of Ukrainian Environmental Academy of Science (BSB UEAS)	Deputy head	Ukraine
181	Ms.	Shved	Oksana	EveryChild Ukraine (EvCh Ukraine)	Communications Manager	Ukraine
182	Ms.	Tochylenkova	Natalia	Women's Consortium of Ukraine (WCU)	Coordinator of Equal Rights and Opportunities Programs	Ukraine
183	Ms.	Zhurzhenko	Olga	Promotion of Intercultural Cooperation (PIC)	Executive Director	Ukraine
184	Mr.	Potocki	Roder	National Endowment for Democracy (NED)	Director for Europe and Eurasia	USA