

Black Sea NGO platform Working Group "Education & Culture" finalized the implementation of the Capacity Development Project

In June 2021, the project titled *"Development of WG Culture & Education via Creating Digital Tools/skills capacity and Strategic Plan"* was completed. It was developed and implemented by the coordinators of the working group of the Black Sea NGO forum "Education & Culture" – Mr. Zviad Eliziani (NGO "IBDIPC - International Business Development and Investment Promotion Center") and Ms. Tamar Janashia (NGO "Culture and Management Lab").



The project aimed to enhance the Working Group "Culture and Education's" and facilitate the working process and make it more efficient. Furthermore, this initiative has also been pursuing the Black Sea NGO Forum's management future plans specifically to transform WGs into fully independent regional networks.

As a first step in starting the activities, the project team members analyzed the needs, challenges, and disadvantages of the situation in order to understand the current situation. This approach has been instrumental for the identification of several weaknesses that need to be strengthened in terms of involvement of the members, structure and long term strategy for the Working Group, rules of membership, low visibility of WG etc.

Throughout the project, several activities were implemented to achieve the primary goal of the project and address the existing challenges. Thus, the following significant activities were performed:

1. Webinars and workshops – held by experts on the following topics:
 - 3 webinars on digital communication tools and 1 workshop on digital communication strategy;
 - 2 workshops on strategic framework and planning.
 - Two-days networking event in Tbilisi (Georgia);
2. Developing the Strategic Action Plan and Framework for Development of the WG "Education and Culture";
 Elaborating on the membership structure/rules;
3. Elaborating the Communication Plan / Package of E-tools and preparing fully active communication channels for WG "Education and Culture".

Furthermore, all the action implemented contributed to the achievement of the primary objectives of the project:

- Strengthening the WG "Culture and Education" through a newly elaborated strategic action plan and membership structure will ensure WG consolidation and transform it into a well-functioning CSO network.
- Equipping the WG members with necessary digital communication skills/knowledge will facilitate and foster cooperation among the group members.
- Facilitation of collaboration among WG members through networking events (offline/online) and developing joint project ideas.

At the end of the project on 28-29 May, the Working Group "Education & Culture" final networking event in Tbilisi (Georgia) was held in a hybrid format due to pandemic restriction. All significant issues related to further development of WG – draft version of WG's Strategic Action plan, Management & Membership structure, Communication plan, and future action plans were discussed. It was agreed on the necessary changes in the WG membership structure to make it more flexible and allow more organizations to join it, facilitating its expansion and the involvement of more active members.

The final event was also an excellent opportunity to share the information with other CSOs involved in culture & Education with the potential to join in for future activities.

The WG coordinators will continue to work together to implement key action steps agreed under the strategic plan and expand the membership of CSOs. Last but not least, by the end of 2021, the final documents will be presented during the annual BS NGO Forum.

For more information, please contact Mr. Zviad Eliziani: ibdipc@gmail.com.



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