

DRAFT AGENDA

The Black Sea NGO Forum
**“Enabling Environment for CSOs:
Towards a Strategy of Civil Society in the Black Sea Region”**
7th edition, 8th-10th of December 2014
Kiev, Ukraine

DAY I (December 8th)

8:30 – 9:00 Registration of participants

9:00 – 10:00 *Official Opening Session of the 7th Edition*

Special Guest: Johannes Hahn, European Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Policy - TBC

The Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine

H.E. Ambassador Traian Chebeleu, Deputy Secretary General, Organisation of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) - TBC

Olivia Baciu, President, The Romanian NGDO Platform – FOND

Viktor Taran, Country Facilitator, Ukrainian National Platform / Member of Steering Committee of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum

10:00 – 11:30 *Plenary Session I: Towards a Strategy of Civil Society in the Black Sea Region*

The Romanian NGDO Platform – FOND (moderator)

The Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Carmen Falkenberg-Ambrosio, Head of Section, Regional Programmes Neighbourhood East
DG Development and Cooperation, European Commission

Nils Jansons, Deputy Head of Division, Division for Eastern Partnership, regional cooperation & OSCE, European External Action Service (EEAS)

Hrant Kostanyan, Associate Research Fellow, Centre for European Policy Studies

Dimitrios Triantaphyllou, Chair, Department of International Relations / Director, Center for International and European Studies (CIES), Kadir Has University, Istanbul

11:30 – 12:00 Coffee break

12:00 – 13:30 Plenary Session II: Introducing the concept of enabling environment and presenting an overview on the implementation of the 2nd indicator of the Busan Partnership

Justin Kilcullen, Co-chair, CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness - CPDE

Brian Tomlinson, Executive Director, AidWatch Canada / CPDE Working Group on CSO Enabling Environment

Natalia Bourjaily, Vice President, Eurasia Programme, International Center for Not-For-Profit Law

Tanja Hafner Ademi, Executive Director, Balkan Civil Society Development Network

Thomas Hansen, Programme Manager, Civil Society and Local Authorities Unit, DG Development and Cooperation, European Commission - TBC

13:30 – 14:30 Lunch break

14:30 – 16:00 Parallel Working Groups: The current state of the enabling environment for civil society organizations in the Black Sea Region (I)

Assessing the three specific dimensions (based on the analysis made by the CPDE Working Group) of CSOs enabling environment:

- Universally accepted human rights and freedoms affecting CSOs (recognising these rights and freedoms, ensuring a supportive legal framework; respecting the rights of specific groups);
- Policy influencing (providing CSOs with spaces for dialogue and debate in order to influence decision-making);
- Donor - CSOs relationships (encouraging partnerships and participation of CSOs from partner countries, greater predictability in allocating funds, ensuring core funding, avoiding dependency on external funds).

PART I: National Multi-stakeholder Working Groups from the Black Sea region identifying their current national context regarding the three dimensions:

Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bulgaria, Georgia, Greece, the Republic of Moldova, Turkey, Ukraine, Romania and Russia

16:00 – 17:00 Plenary Session III: Presenting the current national contexts on enabling environment for civil society

17:30 – 19:00 Side event: Freedom of speech & Media in the Black Sea Area

DAY II (December 9th)

9:00 – 10:30 *Parallel Working Groups: The current state of the enabling environment for civil society organizations in the Black Sea Region (II)*

Carmen Falkenberg-Ambrosio, Head of Section, Regional Programmes Neighbourhood East
DG Development and Cooperation, European Commission

PART II: Mixed Working Groups identifying the common needs and challenges at regional level regarding the three dimensions (3-5 groups).

10:30 – 12:00 *Plenary Session IV: Identified common needs and challenges for the civil society sector in the Black Sea region (“food for thought” from the consultations)*

Reporting conclusions from the Mixed Working Groups

Perspectives & Reactions:

CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness – CPDE

The European NGO Confederation for Relief and Development – CONCORD

Andris Kesteris, Principal Adviser, Civil Society and Inter-institutional Relations, DG Enlargement,
European Commission

Vugar Bayramov, Co-Chair Steering Committee, Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum

Paul Ivan, Policy Analyst, European Policy Center

12:00 – 12:30 **Coffee break**

12:30 - 14:00 *Parallel Thematic Workshops: Input from different sectors on ways to improve the civil society enabling environment (I)*

DEMOCRACY & HUMAN RIGHTS

ENVIRONMENT & MARITIME POLICY

SOCIAL: CHILD PROTECTION

14:00 – 15:00 **Lunch break**

15:00 – 16:30 Parallel Thematic Workshops: Input from different sectors on ways to improve the civil society enabling environment (II)

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT

Resource person: **Thomas Hansen**, Programme Manager, Civil Society and Local Authorities Unit, DG Development and Cooperation – EuropeAid, European Commission - TBC

YOUTH AND EDUCATION

SOCIAL ECONOMY

16:30 – 17:30 Plenary Session V: Identified priorities & solutions for the future

DAY III (December, 10th)

9:00 – 10:30 Plenary Session VI: Donors' involvement in supporting CSOs in the Black Sea region

Katarzyna Jarosiewicz-Wargan, Project Development, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, Project Coordination Unit, OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR)

Bianca Baumler, Outreach and Knowledge Management Officer, European Endowment for Democracy

Martins Murnieks, Programme Officer, Black Sea Trust for Regional Cooperation

Cristina Buzaşu, Civil Society Manager, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)

10:30 – 11:00 Coffee break

11:00 – 12:30 Plenary Session VII: The Way Forward in Creating a Strategy of Civil Society in the Black Sea Region

Conclusions and results of this year's edition

Presenting best practices in the region & ideas for future cooperation

12:30 – 13:30 Lunch break

13:30 – 15:00 Market place for projects & partners