

Sharing the Experiences of Visegrad Cooperation in the Western Balkans and the EaP Countries

Interregional Workshop* on the role of Civil Society Organizations in Regional Cooperation

A G E N D A

Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, 17-19 November 2010

Mirroring the goal of the project above as applied to a specific field, the objective of the workshop is threefold. First, ICDT aims to present well-defined achievements and lessons learned of Visegrad cooperation in the field of civil society in the context of EU integration and membership. Second, participants will analyze the applicability of these experiences in light of current challenges and opportunities in the Western Balkans and the EaP countries in selected policy areas. Finally, the discussion in working groups will be focused on identifying common solutions, best practices and recommendations for further cooperation among these regions and civil societies or within them. Besides the level of expertise of participants, the food-for-thought paper circulated before the event to help identify specific key issues will be important to shape a fruitful discussion. *Participants are kindly asked to carefully read and follow the guidelines included in the instructions for participants attached to the paper.*

VENUE:
Radon Plaza Hotel*****
Džemala Bijedića 185

WEDNESDAY, 17 NOVEMBER

Arrivals (transfer from airport to the hotel arranged, please refer to joining instructions)

19:00 Opening Dinner in town, Avaz Twist Tower, Elite Club 31

THURSDAY, 18 NOVEMBER

09:00 **Opening Remarks**

- Welcoming remarks by Mr. Sándor Köles, ICDT Senior Vice President for Programs and Development
- Opening remarks by Mr. Branimir Mandic, Assistant Minister, Head of the Department for Multilateral Relations, Bosnia and Herzegovina

09:30-10:45 **PLENARY SESSION I: ROLE OF CIVIL SOCIETY IN REGIONAL COOPERATION:**

Chair: Mr. Sándor Köles, ICDT Senior Vice President for Programs and Development

- Presentation on the Civil Societies in Central Europe – Mr. Miroslav Kundrata, Director, Partnership Foundation, Czech Republic
- Presentation on Western Balkans by Ms. Lidija Topic, Adviser to RCC Liaison Office in Brussels, Regional Cooperation Council (RCC), Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina

10:45 Coffee break



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11:00-12:15 PLENARY SESSION II: Key Challenges

Chair: Mr. Csaba Lőrinczi ICDT Lead Expert, Community Education Consultant, GlobeEd Services

- Presentation on the Role of Civil Society in Regional conflict resolution – Ms. Sonja Licht, President, Belgrade Fund for Political Excellence
 - Question and answer session
- Presentation on Embedding Civil Society in Social Processes – Ruslan Zhilenko, Director, Carpathian Foundation Ukraine
 - Question and answer session
- Presentation on Community and Civil Society Development – Ms. Sophia Svanadze, National Program Officer, Swiss Cooperation Office for the South Caucasus, Embassy of Switzerland, Tbilisi, Georgia
 - Question and answer session

12:15 Lunch Break

13:15- 14:30 Discussion on Supporting Civil Society- Donors Perspective

Moderator: Mr. Daniel Bader, President of the Helen Bader Foundation

Panelists: Mr. Petr Vagner, Director of the International Visegrad Fund

Ms. Lidija Arsova, Executive Officer of the Central European Initiative

Ms. Ana Aelenei, Program Officer at the Black Sea Trust for Regional Cooperation

14:30-17:00 REGIONAL WORKSHOP SESSIONS

These workshop sessions will look at 1) the regional context of the state of the civil societies 2) challenges and opportunities 3) sharing best practices and tracking for deeper participation in the regional cooperation.

Discussion will start from a broad perspective that would subsequently be narrowed to the most important issues for specific countries and/or subregions. *The objective of the working groups is to identify common solutions, best practices and elaborating concrete project ideas for further cooperation among these regions or within them.* The conclusions on identified key issues would then be presented in the closing joint sessions. *Please refer to the food for thought paper and guidelines for participants.*

Workshop A: Civil Societies in the EU's Eastern Neighborhood; Key Issues and Opportunities (Venue: Meeting Room 1)

Moderator: Mr. Richard C. Rowson, Vice President, Board of Directors, Council for a Community of Democracies, USA and Ms. Marianna Török, ICDT Lead Expert

Workshop B: Civil Societies in the Western Balkans; Key Issues and Opportunities (Venue: Meeting Room 3)

Moderator: Csaba Lőrinczi, ICDT Lead Expert, Community Education Consultant, GlobeEd Services



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- 16:00-16:15 Coffee break
- 17:00-17:30 **Presentation of Initial Conclusions from the Working Sessions and Discussion**
Moderator: Mr. Sándor Köles, ICDT Senior Vice President for Programs and Development
- 19:00 Dinner in town, Tavola Restaurant

FRIDAY, 19 NOVEMBER

- 09:00-10:30 **REGIONAL WORKSHOP SESSIONS CONTINUED**
Workshop A: Civil Societies in the EU's Eastern Neighborhood; Key Issues and Opportunities
Workshop B: Civil Societies in the Western Balkans; Key Issues and Opportunities
- 10:30 Coffee break
- 10:45 **JOINT SESSION: Presentation of Regional Conclusions and Discussion on Common Themes and Opportunities for Cooperation**
Moderator: Marianna Török
- 11:45 **CLOSING PLENARY SESSION: Presentation of the Conclusions, Summary and the Way Ahead**
Chair: Mr. Sándor Köles, ICDT Senior Vice President for Programs and Development
- 12:00 **Closing remarks** by Mr. Sándor Köles, ICDT Senior Vice President for Programs and Development
- 12:15 Lunch at Hotel
- 13:00- Departure (transfer from hotel to airport arranged, please refer to joining instructions)

*Please note that the working language of the event is English.