



Romanian
Development Camp

FROM WORDS TO ACTION

Fostering synergies for achieving
the Sustainable Development Goals

26-28
JUNE

@ NOD Makerspace
Bucharest



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Fostering synergies for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals at the 11th edition of the Romanian Development Camp



The 11th edition of the Romanian Development Camp

was organised in the very special context of the first Romanian Presidency of the Council of the European Union with the aim of contributing to raising awareness and increase support for open, fair and sustainable policies, for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, cooperation and development, human rights and enabling environment for civil society.

The Romanian Development Camp is a traditional event initiated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2008 and organized in partnership with the FOND between 2010-2017. Throughout the years, the event provided an open space for dialogue and consultation, strengthening collaboration, building trust and fostering valuable input from national and international stakeholders.

The event was created with the purpose of gathering recommendations, good practices and to support joint initiatives and partnerships. With each edition, The Romanian Development Camp nourishes valuable insight and lessons learnt from a wide range of development cooperation stakeholders.

This year's edition was held within the framework of the project "Towards open, fair and sustainable Europe in the world - [EU Presidency Project](#) 2019-2021" funded by the European Union and had the support of the project partners: [The Finnish NGO platform for development Fingo](#), [the Croatian Platform CROSOL](#), and [CONCORD](#), the European NGO Confederation for Relief and Development.

Since 2008, the Romanian Development Camp is the first and only event in Romania in the field of international development cooperation and humanitarian aid, which gathers every year more than 100 national and international stakeholders, experts from Romania, the EU and from all over the world.

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26
June

DAY I

Opening session: Coordination and implementation of Agenda 2030 at the EU level. Key moments during the Romanian Presidency of the EU Council

Moderator: Ștefan Cibian, President, The Romanian NGDO Platform (FOND)

Speakers:

László Borbély, State Counsellor, Department of Sustainable Development in Romania, Government of Romania

Istvan Jakab, Economic Counsellor, European Commission Representation in Romania

Radu Butum, Vice-chair at International Cooperation for Development (CODEV) Working Party and Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development Working Party, Permanent Representation of Romania to the European Union

Sally Nicholson, on behalf of CONCORD Europe, Head of Development Policy & Finance, WWF European Policy Office - Video Intervention



The event was opened by FOND's President, **Mr. Ștefan Cibian** who gave a brief presentation on the background of The Development Camp, as a traditional event organized by FOND since 2010. This year's edition was part of the project ["Towards an open, fair and sustainable Europe in the world - EU Presidency Project 2019-2021"](#), co-funded by the European Union and implemented by the Finnish NGO platform for development Fingo, the Romanian NGDO Platform FOND, the Croatian Platform CROSOL, and CONCORD, the European NGO Confederation for Relief and Development. This year marks the first time that the national NGDO platforms from the countries of the presidency trio come together in partnership with CONCORD, bridging the national level with the European processes in Brussels.

The Representative of the European Commission Representation in Romania, **Mr. Istvan Jakab** who emphasized that the European Commission mainstreams the Sustainable Development Goals in all its policy making processes and underlined the importance of ["The Reflection Paper: Towards a sustainable Europe by 2030"](#) launched by the European Commission on the 30th of January 2019. Mr. Jakab also mentioned the importance of open consultations when it comes to the [EU Strategic Agenda for 2019-2024](#). **"Everybody has a role to play in implementing the 2030 Agenda!"** All stakeholders - public institutions, national, regional and local NGOs, civil society, media, etc. - have an important role in the implementation and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.


Mr. Radu Butum, Vice-chair of the International Cooperation for Development (CODEV) Council Working Party shared more insights on the decision making mechanism at the EU Council level and highlighted the mainstreaming of the Sustainable Development Goals in the EU Council Conclusions on the Reflection Paper of the EU Commission (9th of April 2019). Moreover, in its Conclusions, the Council underlines that sustainable development is at the core of EU values, stressing that there is an urgency to act and a need for a strategic framework, a strategy with timelines, objectives and concrete measures in order to monitor the 2030 Agenda and to mainstream the SDGs into all relevant internal and external EU policies. The Council calls for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda to be accelerated "both globally and internally, as an overarching priority of the EU (...)".

In 2016, in Romania, the Department for Sustainable Development was established under the Prime Minister's office and led by **Mr. László Borbély**, State Counsellor. In December 2018, the Department





launched the National Strategy for Sustainable Development and in May 2019 the Government established the **Interdepartmental Committee for Sustainable Development** as an inter-institutional body chaired by the Prime Minister. The Committee follows the process of implementation, monitoring, evaluation and review of the National Strategy for Sustainable Development of Romania 2030. Mr. Borbély mentioned the fact that "Romania is recognized at the European level as regional leader in implementing the 2030 Agenda." The State Counsellor concluded by thanking FOND for the institutional partnership and support for the activity of the Department of Sustainable Development and underlined the importance of partnerships with civil society.



Ms. Sally Nicholson, CONCORD Head of Development Policy & Finance, focused in her presentation on **Policy Coherence for Development (PCD)** and its transition towards **Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development (PCSD)**, which is currently under SDG 17. According to the Treaty of the European Union (art. 208), "through Policy Coherence for Development (PCD) the EU seeks to take account of development objectives in its policies that are likely to affect developing countries."

The **EU Better Regulation agenda** could be a tool for policy coherence for sustainable development in EU public policy, and not only an instrument for efficiency. Better Regulation considers a wide range of policy options and weighs them before making final decisions. Ms. Nicholson considers that civil society should be more involved in the decision making process, mainly at the impact assessment level.

A recording of this session is available on Euractiv's [Youtube](#) channel.



Funding the implementation of the SDGs: the role of Official Development Assistance


Moderator: Sonja Grigat, Policy Adviser, Association of German Development and Humanitarian Aid NGOs - VENRO

Speakers:

Luca de Fraia, Deputy Secretary-General, ActionAid Italy

Jan Van de Poel, Policy and Advocacy Manager, Eurodad - the European Network on Debt and Development


Angela Sima, Counselor, Programmes Department, The Romanian Agency for International Development Cooperation (RoAid)



Ms. Sonja Grigat, VENRO Policy Adviser, introduced the audience with the [latest report on Official Development Assistance \(ODA\) preliminary figures for 2018](#), the collective assistance from the European Union and its Member States amounted to more than **€74.4 billion** in 2018, representing 0.47% of the EU combined Gross National Income (GNI). Based on the recent trends on ODA, EU will only reach the 0.7% goal by 2057, almost 30 years later than the target needed for achieving the 2030 Agenda.

Mr. Jan Van Poel, EURODAD Policy and Advocacy Manager, presented an overview of development finance and the role of ODA in this context, as well as some of the challenges related to this issue. A recent UN report showed that we need 2.5 trillion USD for implementing the 2030 Agenda and achieving the SDGs, figures which include more than just ODA alone. What is worrying about the





current ODA modernization process is that *“a lot of this money is going to the more productive sectors - infrastructure, telecommunications - and a little of this is going to the social sectors - in terms of health, education, sanitation - where there is less profit. We may see less resources available for crucial sectors.”*



Taking the discussion a step further, **Mr. Luca de Fraia**, ActionAid Italy Deputy Secretar-General, agrees that the 17 Sustainable Development Goals are more ambitious than the previous Millennium Development Goals and, consequently, we need to mobilize more resources *“we have to move from millions to trillions”*. In this context, came the idea that *“we need to bring the private sector on board more than in the past.”* The discussions on the next EU Multiannual Financial Framework are really about changing the financial architecture of the development cooperation. This new financial architecture is based on using aid funds for bringing the private sector in development cooperation field, which may lead to discrepancies.

“It's not just about numbers, it's about the idea that you can have development finance at the market terms. If you borrow money at market terms, you have to give that money back at some point. And this may imply a new wave of debt crisis or a new wave of consumer fees in development.” – Luca de Fraia, ActionAid Italy.

In order to catch a glimpse of what Romania has been doing in terms of ODA, **Ms. Angela Sima** from the Romanian Agency for International Development Cooperation (RoAid) gave an extensive presentation of the institution's activities in this field. The total national budget for development assistance reported by Romania in 2017 was approx. 186,8 million EUR, representing 0.11% of GNI. The main geographic areas where Romania invests its ODA are: the Republic of Moldova, Georgia, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, Tunisia, Caribbean and Pacific Island States, Sahel Region-Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, East Africa - Zambia, Tanzania.

A recording of this session is available on Euractiv's [Youtube](#) channel.




Thematic Parallel Workshops The Fair Times' time is Now (Part I&II)




“Mai Bine” Association facilitated this workshop which was **designed in two parts (on the 26th and 27th June)**. The whole approach of the workshop emphasized from the beginning the role of SDG 12 namely ensuring sustainable consumption and production patterns. The session had an interactive format in order for the participants to be engaged in the discussion.





SDG12 stands for: sustainable sourcing, resource efficiency of products and services, materials recycling, procurement practices, product and service information and labelling. Today's economy has a linear dimension along the following chain: from the producer to the exporter, importer, wholesaler, retailer, consumer and in the end it became waste.

Currently, in terms of the distribution of power, the statistics indicate that we have 2,5 billion producers and 7 billion consumers. Especially in countries from Africa, Latin America and Asia unfair trading practices are daily realities. What we should keep in mind is that if something is too cheap, in most of the cases, somebody else is paying the price.




According to the European Commission, unfair trading practices (UTPs) are defined as those “that grossly deviate from good commercial conduct, are contrary to good faith and fair dealing and are unilaterally imposed by one trading partner on another”.

When it comes to international trade we have the following approaches:

- **Positive** - job creator, access to products, variety, global access for local producers and migration.
- **Negative** - carbon footprint, biodiversity loss, deforestation, waste, working conditions, inequalities between north and south, lack of predictability, trade agreements conflicts.

Based on the input of the participants, the following recommendations for supporting a sustainable international trade were mentioned:

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1. Every person should grow her/his own food;
 2. Everyone should get paid on time and fairly;
 3. People should promote the zero food waste way of life;
 4. Human rights should be respected throughout the entire supply chain;
 5. People should benefit from incentives and facilities in order to establish more social economy structures;
 6. There should be a prohibition of imports of products that can be found at local level;
 7. Transparency and traceability should be the main principles that companies apply.

The participants ended the first part of the workshop with ideas on our role and responsibility for action as consumers: using reporting mechanisms, advocacy towards decision makers, networking and raising awareness among peers to promote responsible consumption. In conclusion, “Mai Bine” Association also added their recommendations on achieving SDG 12:

Raise awareness of externality costs (‘someone else always pays the price’), challenging the consumerist ‘culture of cheap’ and the culture of ‘competition at all costs’.

- Show the need and potential for a EU transformative agenda to change supply chains so that they serve people and planet.
- Encourage the EU to put in place an enabling policy environment for social solidarity business models, ethical finance, Fair Trade supply chains and enterprises, organic agriculture and agro-ecology.

Be inclusive!

The workshop was facilitated by the [Association “Assistance and Programs for Sustainable Development – Agenda 21”](#) and focused on raising awareness regarding three of the Sustainable Development Goals namely SGD 10 – Reduced Inequalities, SDG 11 – Sustainable Cities and SDG 16 – Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions. The workshop was divided in three parts:

Part 1: Interactive activity “Building a House”

Divided in groups, participants were invited to build a house with recycled materials, glue and wire. In each group there were 3 people simulating disabilities: one blindfolded, one with the hands tied up and one who couldn't speak. One participant acted as an observer. Every house was built using materials like cardboard, plastic bottles, plastic glasses, magazines, glue etc. After the house was built everybody explained how they worked together as a team and how they included the “person with disabilities” in the process.

Part 2: Debate based on video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rjluLV1F-UI>

After watching the video: “Inclusion of people with disabilities”, participants had a discussion on the importance of being able to deal with the differences and to include everyone in decision-making processes and implementation of activities.

Part 3: Inclusive Communities – design an inclusive city

After responding to the question “What is an inclusive community?” participants were divided into groups and assumed the role of an architect and designed an inclusive city, considering places - school, gardens, hospitals, city hall, faith spaces; people – children, youngsters and elders with and without physical and mental health problems, having different cultures, different sexual orientation; areas of intervention – poverty, hunger, rights, environment.

The purpose of the exercise was for the participants to reflect on the needs of different people and create a city to fit everyone's needs in accordance with the targets of the three SDGs mentioned above.



DAY II

Working together in the context of Agenda 2030: Exploring the partnership between the private sector and civil society organizations

Moderator: Iuliana Rada, Programme Director, Civil Society Development Foundation

Speakers:


Doru Mitrană, Founder, Sustainability Embassy in Romania

Alina Liciu, Corporate Sustainability Consultant, The Azores

The second day of the camp started with a discussion and reflection regarding the involvement of the private sector in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the best ways for the private sector to work with civil society in order to reach the Sustainable Development Goals.

Ms. Iuliana Rada, CDSF Programme Director, drew attention upon the main challenges nowadays, from economic to environmental aspects. It is not enough that only one actor addresses the SDGs, it is high time for the business environment, civil society and authorities to work together. There is a sense of urgency, all international statistics encourage everyone to act now and make those changes that will ensure our survival after 2030.






Mr. Doru Mitrana presented a very innovative initiative that started in Romania in 2017 called the Sustainability Embassy with the purpose of encouraging organisations from different sectors to work together with companies from the private sector. The program is based on the idea of partnership: „When it comes to the global goals there should not be competition”, Doru Mitrana added.

For this goal, the initiative designed programmes that create partnership opportunities for institutions, organisations and companies alike, where SDGs are at the core: the Sustainability Talks – which bring together people from different sectors; the Sustainable Romania Coalition - with 17 working groups, trying to identify the priorities on sustainable development for Romania and work to address the challenges; the SDG ambassadors – creating a group of people that can spread the message regarding the 2030 Agenda; the SDG Gallery – a series of materials showcasing the sustainable development goals and the Sustainability Library with academic content in the field of sustainable development.



Another interesting initiative established in Romania in 2013 belongs to The Azores, which conducts the Romania CSR Index on an annual basis. The CSR Index presents a review of the public interest information that all the companies in Romania publish. The latest CSR Index indicates that “in the last year, 40% of the Romanian companies did not publish any information about their social or environmental impact”.

„The main purpose of this index is to encourage companies to have the CSR reports. There are 17 SDGs but 169 targets. This CSR Index has 67 indicators and this number is increasing every year. We do encourage companies to be more transparent and to use standards. There are only a few companies that have drafted strategies for sustainability”, says **Ms. Alina Liciu**, Corporate Sustainability Consultant, The Azores.



For the Q&A session the discussions focused on: the profit and the sustainability of a company, mapping of the legal responsibility of companies in Romania, the importance of human resources in a company and what can NGOs bring to a partnership with the business sector in terms of sustainability.

The main conclusion was that we should strive to work together in partnership, learn from each other and put sustainability at the core of our work.





Implementing SDG 12 - Sustainable Consumption and Production: Best practices and lessons learnt

Moderator: Ana-Maria Pălăduș, Vice President, REPER 21 Association

Speakers:

Cristina Bălan, Managing Partner, CSR Boot IQ

Ivana Ulična, Slovak NDGO Platform

Anca Gheorghica, Mai Bine Association

Adelina Crețu, Travel Manager, Wise.travel

The main purpose of the session was to highlight examples and lessons learnt from relevant stakeholders on how to implement sustainable production practices, as well as, how to advocate and raise awareness on the importance of sustainable consumption patterns. SDG 12 is very challenging to achieve and in order to make steps in this direction, radical changes are needed from the side of consumers, companies, public institutions and all other actors/stakeholders on the market.

During this session four representatives from different sectors introduced examples of good practices on sustainable development. We started with **Ms. Cristina Bălan** from CSR Boot IQ - a company which provides expertise and certified trainings for measuring and reporting impact through the sustainability report known also as non-financial reporting. CSR goes beyond any act of charity, being a strategic management concept whereby companies integrate social and environmental concerns in their business operations and interactions with their stakeholders. Ms. Bălan emphasized in her speech the principles that should be respected by all companies aiming at contributing to sustainable development: truth, technology, transparency, traceability, transformation, trust.



The discussion went further with a presentation made by **Ms. Ivana Ulična** from MVRO Slovak NDGO Platform whose awareness-raising campaign in the field of responsible shopping behaviour, which can change the world, reached more than 450.000 people. The campaign brought together various stakeholders with the aim to encourage the general public and businesses to adopt sustainable production and consumption habits in three areas - the use of plastics, fair trade products, responsible consumption in fashion.

Good practices in the sphere of sustainable consumption flourished in the last couple of years. **Ms. Anca Gheorghică** from “Mai Bine” Association, one of the promoters of sustainable consumption introduced their flagship projects like Cuib and Redu, active in the field of fashion and food. Both initiatives promote responsible consumption among consumers and circular economy practices.

Not just food and fashion is on the table for sustainable consumption but also travel, and **Ms. Adelina Crețu** talked about an initiative founded in Iași county in 2017. WISE.travel is a social enterprise with an innovative way of functioning. For every acquisition that a customer is making on the online platform for travel or other touristic services, 50% of the total amount goes to an NGO signed up on the platform. In an environment in which less and less funds are available for NGOs, this opportunity is essential in promoting the objectives of non-governmental organizations.



Youth engagement in the implementation of the UN Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development

Moderator: Cristina Andrada Baba, UN Youth Delegate

Speakers:

Breje Nora, SDG Volunteer, Progress Foundation

Darius Istrate, SDG Volunteer, National Resource Center for Volunteerism

Ionuț Dochianu, SDG Volunteer, Assistance and Programs for Sustainable Development – Agenda 21 APDD

Alexandru Băleanu, SDG Volunteer, New Horizons Foundation

Cristina Apostol, SDG Volunteer, New Horizons Foundation

Andrei Joița, SDG Volunteer, National Organization of Romanian Scouts

Denisa Mirciu, SDG Volunteer, The Civic Resource Centre

This innovative session entitled: *“Youth engagement in the implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”* was designed with the purpose of sharing experiences and lessons learned among youngsters who work with SDGs and sustainable development through volunteering. Each of the seven participants talked about the importance of volunteering in this field and about the added value it brought in their development as future adults.

What these youngsters have in common is a strong wish to change things in their communities. Alexandru wishes to clean the Danube, Cristina wants to be part of the change in her community, Andrei wants to teach the new generation about teamwork, Nora is eager to fight pollution, Ionuț says that volunteering is a good way to gain confidence in yourself and has a lot of initiatives on how to promote recycling, Denisa says that the change starts with each of us.

- ✓ Children can be motivated if they can see that they can influence processes
- ✓ Volunteering is special because it gives a variety of options for personal growth
- ✓ NGOs offer a place and the opportunity to make a change

- ✓ Volunteering is a means of promoting the Sustainable Development Goals
- ✓ There is little awareness among people when talking about SDGs
- ✓ Children should learn about sustainable development in primary schools, but in an interactive way
- ✓ Prejudice should not exist in our minds



Thematic Parallel Workshops

Empowering youth for achieving the SDGs

The workshop was organised by [New Horizons Foundation](#) to showcase how young children can be involved in communities through volunteering and to teach participants about the Service Learning Method applied by the New Horizons Foundation in schools all over Romania.

One of the flagship programmes using the Service Learning method is called IMPACT and is led by IMPACT leaders (teachers). Currently, there are over 180 clubs in 26 counties in Romania.

Young children are learning through various methods, from strategy games and storytelling to experiential learning. Service Learning consists of combining what kids learn in school with civic action, hence empowering youngsters to find solutions for their community.

The main benefits for youngsters include:

- Practicing what they learn in school, for a real cause;
- Taking real decisions;
- Becoming active citizens and discover themselves;
- Developing the 3 C: Character, Competence, Contribution to SDGs.

New Horizons Foundation RESULTS of the activities on empowering youth for achieving SDGs in the last year:

- 60 service learning projects on 6 SDGs: no poverty, zero hunger, health and well-being, quality education, clean water, reduce inequalities;
- Over 1200 young people engaged in this mission, learned about local and global challenges;
- Over 6000 beneficiaries of the Service Learning Projects;
- Over 100 partners and experts mobilized



DAY III

Consolidating the Black Sea Region Cooperation: A Priority for the Romanian Presidency

Moderator: Marianna Prisyazniuk, Journalist, UNN - Ukrainian National News

Speakers:

Olivia Todorean, Director, Analysis and Policy Planning Division, The Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Diana Tase, Black Sea Synergy and Eastern Partnership Policy Officer, European External Action Service

Maria Florea, Program Officer, Black Sea Trust for Regional Cooperation

Ștefan Cibian, President, The Romanian NGDO Platform – FOND/ Board Member, the Romanian Association for International Cooperation and Development - ARCADIA

Gheorghe Viorel Ungureanu, Senior Research in Marine Geology, The National Institute for Research and Development on Marine Geology and Geoecology – GeoEcoMar



The main aim of the session was to highlight the importance of the Black Sea Region during the Romanian Presidency to the Council of the EU.

The goals of Romania during these six months of Presidency were presented by **Ms. Olivia Todorean** as being the enhancement of Black Sea regional cooperation with the support of the EU, to be more precise: Taking forward the Black Sea Synergy; Launching the Black Sea Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda; Adopting the Common Maritime Agenda for the Black Sea. The adoption of these agendas were preceded by several multi-stakeholder workshops held at national and regional levels. According to these documents, several priorities for blue economy were set: healthy marine and coastal ecosystem, sustainable economy at the Black Sea, fostering investment in the Black Sea blue economy etc. Moreover, both agendas were inspired by other cooperation models developed in sea basins areas, such as the Baltic or Mediterranean seas. A really big success was the recognition of the importance of an increased EU role in Black Sea regional cooperation established in the [EU Council Conclusions from the 17th of June 2019](#).

Ms. Diana Tase also recognized the positive results achieved – Black Sea Region cooperation is higher on the EU agenda and gets more attention from the Member States. She also emphasized the importance of the Black Sea Synergy in the Foreign Affairs Council which issued a high-level document acknowledging the Synergy. According to the Joint Staff Working Document issued by the Commission and the European External Action Service in March 2019, there are 3 circles of cooperation areas in which the Black Sea Synergy has made progress on a larger or smaller scale: civil society engagement, blue growth, research and innovation, fisheries, cross-border cooperation, environmental protection and climate change, transport, education, culture, energy, tourism, social affairs, trade. Ms. Tase also drew the attention on the importance of civil society involvement and gave the successful example of the Black Sea NGO Forum and the recognition it received in the EU Council Conclusions. Moreover, Ms. Tase mentioned in her speech also the connection between the cooperation areas of the Black Sea Synergy and the SDGs.

Black Sea Trust for Regional Cooperation is a grant making initiative created by the German Marshall Fund of the United States. For more than a decade, the Black Sea Trust has been strengthening regional cooperation, civil society, and democratic foundations in the countries of the Black Sea Region, but also the cooperation between these states and the European and transatlantic spaces. More specifically, their programmes are dedicated to building the capacity of civil society, as well as investing in leadership in these countries.

"The region matters. It is very important that the Presidency had these results – the commitment is in writing." – Maria Florea, Black Sea Trust for Regional Cooperation

In order to further acknowledge the importance of the civil society, **Mr. Ștefan Cibian** talked about the [Black Sea NGO Forum](#), a traditional event that FOND Romania has been organizing since 2008. The event is considered today by our European partners as one of the main success stories of the Black Sea Synergy in the field of "Democracy, Civil Society & Youth". Mr. Cibian also drew to the attention of the participants the fact that in January 2019, [FOND has started a three-year project](#) funded by the European Commission aiming to transform the Forum into a mechanism of support for CSOs in the Black Sea Region by providing capacity building opportunities for CSOs and CSO leaders.





To round up this session, **Mr. Gheorghe Ungureanu**, representing the academic sector, talked about the Black Sea Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA) - the work carried out by Black Sea coastal countries experts, in cooperation with marine experts from leading European marine institutes and organisations, with the support of the European Commission. SRIA was launched in May 2019 as a reference framework for all stakeholders (academia, funding agencies, industry, policy makers, civil society). It has 4 pillars, 11 goals and will be further consolidated in dialogue and in close link with relevant national, European and international stakeholders.

4 pillars of SRIA:

- Black Sea Knowledge Bridge
- Black Sea Blue Economy
- Key Infrastructure and policy enablers
- Empowered citizens and enhanced workforce

Closing session: Hand-over & Priorities for the next Presidencies: Finland & Croatia

Moderator: Anca Ciucă, Vice-President, The Romanian NGDO Platform – FOND/Executive President, Foundation for Democratic Change

Speakers:

Ştefan Tinca, Political Director, Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Katja Ahlfors, Director of Unit, General Development Policy at the MFA of Finland

Rilli Lappalainen, Advocacy Director, The Finnish NGO Platform for Development – Fingo

Gordan Bosanac, Communication Coordinator and Advocacy Advisor, The Croatian Platform for International Citizen Solidarity – CROSOL

The closing session of the 11th edition of the Romanian Development Camp marked a symbolic moment of passing the baton from the Romanian Presidency of the Council of the European Union on to the Finnish one, at both governmental and national development platform level.

In terms of development and cooperation, **Mr. Ştefan Tinca**, Political Director within the Romanian MFA, praised that the 2030 Agenda has achieved a new impetus under the Romanian Presidency of the Council of the EU, referring to the [conclusions adopted by the Council in April 2019](#), in which the transition to a sustainable future and the urge of drafting an overarching implementation strategy of the 2030 Agenda at the level of the European Union were strongly reiterated. Aside from this accomplishment, Mr. Ştefan Tinca highlighted another four key contributions on behalf of the Romanian Presidency: the Council conclusions for the implementation of the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa, leading the negotiation process on the external component of the future Multiannual Financial Framework (2021-2027), prioritising technology-driven assistance in humanitarian aid and supporting youth involvement in decision-making dialogue as a horizontal priority.

The commitment to continue promoting development and cooperation together with FOND Romania was emphasized through the end of the intervention, before **Ms. Katja Ahlfors** moved on to present the official [Finnish Presidency Programme to the Council of the European Union](#), which was published on the 26th of June.

" These kind of events are really important, because is a reminder that EU and EU cooperation is about everyone in the EU, and **civil society makes a really important part of it**. Congratulations to the Romanian Presidency, that gives us a very good starting point!", said Ms. Katja Ahlfors, Director of the General Development Policy Unit at the MFA of Finland, in the beginning of her intervention.

For the newly established government in Finland, the foundation for all International Relations are the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda, framed by a critical set of values: human rights, democracy, rule of law, gender equality. The main priorities of the following 6 months for the Finnish Presidency will be focused on: EU Global leadership in climate action, strengthen common values and the rule of law, make the EU more competitive and socially inclusive, protect the security of citizens and establish a comprehensive partnership with Africa.



This is not the first Finnish Presidency at the Council of the EU for which [Fingo \(the Finnish national platform for development\)](#) and the Government of Finland are closely cooperating. **Rilli Lappalainen**, Advocacy Director at Fingo, warmly welcomed Finland's new Programme by underlining the importance of open space for civil society and civic voices and furthermore committed to support the pledge for sustainability that the Finnish Presidency took on. " *Agenda 2030, civil society and fight against climate change are key topics during Finland's EU Presidency. We are also happy that the language used in the programme about democracy and rule of law is very strong*", said Rilli Lappalainen.

Mr. Gordan Bosanac, Advocacy Expert at [CROSOL \(the Croatian national platform for development\)](#), strongly related to the newly launched Finnish Presidency Programme: " *I have to say that our citizens's priorities are overlapping, maybe 70%, with the government priorities of Finland. It is a very interesting situation and very good also for us in CROSOL, because now we actually have to start working with the Finnish government already*". In this sense, CROSOL wishes to see much more work related to the protection of human rights, civil society and the rule of law within Europe, during the Croatian Presidency to the Council of the EU in 2020.

" *For us, as a trio, it is very important that there are a lot of similarities between the Presidencies already now, which one of those is civil society space and democracy*", added Rilli Lappalainen at the end of the session. Fingo and CROSOL will support the Finnish and Croatian Presidencies at the Council of the EU as part of our project, "Towards open, fair and sustainable Europe in the World – EU Presidency Project 2019-2021", in which together with FOND Romania, they aim to increase public support and raise awareness regarding the 2030 Agenda at national and European level.

For more details about the EU Presidency Project and the [priorities of Fingo](#) and [CROSOL](#) for the Presidency of the Council of the European Union, visit their [interviews](#) with Euractiv on Youtube.





Priorities and Focus

The European Commission's DEAR Programme supports positive global change through projects led by Civil Society Organisations and Local Authorities across the European Union. The DEAR Programme helps to develop Europeans' awareness and critical understanding of global interdependence, supporting the EU's fundamental values and contributing to the global eradication of poverty and inequality.

Source: 'DEAR Projects: Achievement & Impact 2018': <https://europa.eu/capacity4dev/dear/node/84510>

Development Education and Awareness Raising Programme (DEAR)

A final intervention in the closing session was held by **Ms. Jady Wang**, Task Manager within the European Commission, briefly introducing the DEAR Programme to the audience.

DEAR Programme (Development Education and Awareness Raising Programme) is DEVCO's unique development cooperation initiative that supports global development by focusing on EU citizens through campaigning, advocacy, formal and non-formal education.

'Informed citizens shape development priorities' is the Programme's opening line! 2014-2017 meant over 14 million Europeans engaged in DEAR actions.

'Towards open, fair and sustainable Europe in the World-EU Presidency Project 2019-2021' itself, is **the first joint partnership** at the level of national development platforms in the European Union, that aims at increasing public support for more open, fair and sustainable policies, during the Presidency of the Council of the EU. Being part of DEAR, the EU Presidency Project is contributing to raising awareness among EU citizens regarding global development issues and shaping future EU policies by empowering civil society organisations.

You can learn more about DEAR by visualising its [short introduction video](#) or hearing its standpoint on [climate change](#) and [migration](#).



Rethinking our impact on the environment and local community

Several thoughts on organizing sustainable events

Dear reader,

Carrying out a sustainable event might even reduce costs, empower the local business community, raise awareness among participants regarding environmental considerations and motivate other organisations to take on a greener approach on event organizing.

The hosting location or the catering providers are not the only partners to consider when planning a sustainable event. Communication materials and participants' souvenirs are often associated with big blocks of paper that can include agendas, leaflets, brochures, timesheets or other informative printouts. There are always options for delivering qualitative information to participants beforehand and ensuring the visibility of your event by trying to use, as much as possible, greener alternatives.

We embarked on planning the 11th edition of the Romanian Development Camp having in mind that we ought to do our best in planning this event by being sensitive to environmental aspects. In this sense, we considered using memory sticks instead of participant handouts, thus succeeding to cut back on the use of paper and deliver more information. Nevertheless, whenever we did use paper for notebooks, name tags or banners, we chose recycled paper instead, and we traded plastic pens for cardboard ones.

Values and **sustainable economies** were another central theme of our event. We found inspiration in good stories and the possibility to have impact by organizing an event, even beyond the sole group of participants. In this sense, we wished to promote social enterprise models and we are pleased to present you our partners for the Romanian Development Camp, [Mama Pan](#) and [Remesh](#).

MamaPan bakery is a social business model, initiated by the **Center for Equal Partnership**, that




employs single mothers or mothers with many children, who find themselves in difficult social circumstances. Thus, MamaPan was designed starting from the desire to help a vulnerable economic group and produce a healthy alternative of bread and pastry products. This project aims at bringing a change in the life of the community where it operates, putting the interests of its beneficiaries before the concern for profit or capital accumulation. That is why all financial surplus obtained by selling their products is used to fulfil the social mission assumed: **the creation of new jobs**.



"In MamaPan we make more than bread, we share a social mission! We started this project from the need of offering support to single mothers from our community. Then, we also wished to deliver natural, healthy products, and develop a sustainable business model. We succeed to produce, with the help of women who find themselves in a difficult socio-economic situation, a healthy product that we can deliver to the community in a responsible way!", says **Irina Sorescu**, Executive President at the Center for Equal Partnership.





Remesh is an upcycling workshop where the outdoor advertising waste materials are transformed into various bags for corporate events, or accessories for home&deco, fashion and bicycles. **Remesh** tells the story of many: from mothers with more than two children and a very difficult background, to those who have been victims of domestic violence or trafficking of human beings, homeless adults, people deprived of their liberty, cumulating addicts or disabilities; for all of them, Remesh means a new beginning!

*„The business model of our association Ateliere Fără Frontiere is of a social enterprise where in order to fulfil a public mission of supporting disadvantaged people to integrate them into the labour market. Our efforts to convince the authorities that the social service run by several NGOs in Romania, to reintegrate the active people into the labour market instead of financing the public social services for keeping them assisted for their entire life, or keeping them in a permanently poor/disadvantage stage, is still continuing and hope it will succeed.”, says **Lorita Constantinescu**, Development Director.*



Remesh respects the principles of sustainable development, social economy, solidarity, circular economy and fair trade. But this is not the only social economy initiative of Ateliere fără Frontiere Association.

„We thought about other social needs and values for a progressive society. Circular economy represents an important sector, therefore we created the workshop called reconnect which is about collecting, recycling and reusing the electric and electronic waste equipment. The computers are repaired and offered to schools from disadvantaged areas. Responsible agriculture and healthy food is another way to protect the environment, the soil, the water and the air, and we created a biological agriculture farm called Bio&co where we grow and sell healthy vegetables in a poor rural community close to Bucharest”.

Remesh and MamaPan are a daily reminder that a sustainable type of consumption is possible – a more responsible one, empowering the local community, promoting solidarity and respecting the environment and the people.

FOND Romania will keep learning and seek to improve the way it organizes its future events, pledging to respect the environment, empower the local business community and promote responsible consumption and production. We are grateful for all the recommendations and support received in making this possible.





Parteneri media:



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