

Summary Seminar Report

” Advancing the implementation of Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development through multi-stakeholder engagement: Key moments under the Romanian Presidency of the Council of the European Union”

5th of March 2019, Brussels, Belgium

Acknowledgements

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Background

The Romanian NGDO Platform (FOND) organised this seminar in the context of monitoring the implementation of the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (UN, 2015)** and the commitments of the 193 countries to end poverty, to leave no one behind, to protect the planet and ensure prosperity for all.

The most important step today is to take action and put into practice all the commitments made in 2015. The **key priority actions** that will ensure a successful implementation of the new agenda should be focusing on: creating effective multi-stakeholder partnerships, ensuring full engagement of all stakeholders and enabling environment for all relevant actors to be included in this process, as well as investing in children and young people.

Introduction

The event represented an opportunity to facilitate a constructive dialogue and reflection around the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, to discuss **how various key stakeholders can work together through effective multi-stakeholder partnerships**, at both national and European level, in particular, and how to deepen the focus on **participation of children and youth** in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The seminar aimed:

- provide an open space for networking, exchange of practices, experiences and challenges and to reflect on the progress and challenges encountered in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at national and European level;
- discuss the EU position regarding the 2030 Agenda in the context of the upcoming High Level Political Forum and this year’s United Nations General Assembly;
- draw the attention on the priority issues of the civil society, including resilience and enabling environment for CSOs.

The event brought together representatives of European institutions, non-governmental organizations based in Romania, the Black Sea Region and other countries from the EU, and representatives from the Working Parties on Agenda 2030, Development Cooperation and Youth part of the Council of the European Union.

Main Conclusions and Recommendations:

From statement to an effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda

- **Identify the most efficient solutions** to support the implementation of the Agenda 2030 through capitalizing on all the opportunities that highlight the political visibility of the Agenda 2030 and reconfirm their role in defining the future of Europe;
- **Identify solutions to create an open space** for peer learning of young people and to formalize the capacity building for SDGs as part of school curriculum;
- **Achieve the 2030 Agenda in a strategic way**, through a real engagement and participation of the **multi-stakeholder partnerships**; emphasising on the added value of the multi-stakeholder approach while recognising in the same time its limits in terms of extensive representation;

Mobilize, Engage, Involve

- **Encourage and involve** all relevant actors in the implementation of the Agenda 2030 as the most certain path in ensuring the well-being of the humanity and of the whole planet;
- **Engage and empower young people and youth** associations to participate in the implementation of SDGs and in shaping the policies that will furthermore address the young generations;
- **Mobilize civil society and citizens** to influence the European policies, so that they will become more open, fair and sustainable in the future;
- **Engage more people in EU delegations**, responsible to mainstream the subject of **disability and marginalized group** throughout EU policies, in order to ensure an inclusive approach of implementing the 2030 Agenda.

Raise awareness

- **Raise the issue of real growth and human development**, re-thinking our environmental footprint and **identifying genuine alternative measures for progress beyond GDP**;
- **Raise awareness among all relevant actors** about the necessity to have more political will in achieving the 2030 Agenda and creating a framework at national level that recognizes the role of CSOs in implementing the SDGs;

Reflect

- **Reflect on the new ways of activism** (ad-hoc movements) of young people and the status of the NGOs in this context;
- **Reflect on shrinking space of the civil society and civic activism** and also on the potential dangers on youth engagement (e.g. according to recent studies and analysis, young people are very easily targeted by corrupt governments).

