EVALUATION REPORT
ROMANIAN DEVELOPMENT CAMP
“FROM WORDS TO ACTION:
FOSTERING SYNERGIES FOR ACHIEVING THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS”
26th - 28th of June 2019
Nod Makerspace, Splaiul Unirii 160, Bucharest

- Based on the Evaluation Forms from Participants -

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The Romanian Development Camp is a traditional event initiated by the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2008 and organized in partnership with FOND Romania 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 insights and lessons learnt from a wide range of development cooperation stakeholders. Since 2008, the Romanian Development Camp is the first and only event in Romania in the field of development cooperation and humanitarian aid, which gathers every year around 100 national and international stakeholders, experts from Romania, the EU and from all over the world.

The 11th edition of the Romanian Development Camp was organized 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.

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 with 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. Through plenary sessions, thematic workshops, debates, discussions and by sharing good practices, over 100 participants from Romania, Belgium, Finland, Croatia, Slovakia, Germany, Portugal, Ukraine, Slovenia contributed to promoting the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) from the perspective of:

- EU commitments and future European strategy for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda;
- the role and added value of civil society organizations in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs;
- involving young people in promoting and implementing the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs;
- the contribution of Romania and civil society organizations to strengthening cooperation in the Black Sea region (review of the Black Sea Synergy, Maritime Agenda);
- promoting policy coherence for (sustainable) development (PCD/PCSD), at both national and European level, in order to align with the provisions of the 2030 Agenda and contribute to the implementation of the SDGs.

The event was structured on 7 plenary sessions and 4 workshops distributed over 2 and a half days:

a) Plenary sessions:
Day I - Opening session: Coordination and implementation of Agenda 2030 at the EU level. Key moments during the Romanian Presidency of the EU Council
Day I - Funding the implementation of the SDGs: the role of Official Development Assistance
Day II - Working together in the context of Agenda 2030: Exploring the partnership between the private sector and civil society organizations
Day II - Implementing SDG 12 - Sustainable Consumption and Production: Best practices and lessons learnt
Day II - Youth engagement in the implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
Day III - Consolidating the Black Sea Region Cooperation: A Priority for the Romanian Presidency
Day III - Closing session: Hand-over & Priorities for the next Presidencies: Finland & Croatia

b) Workshops
Day I - Parallel Workshops I - Be inclusive!
Day I - Parallel Workshop II - The Fair Times‘ time is now (part 1)
Day II - Parallel Workshop I - Empowering youth for achieving SDGs
Day II - Parallel Workshop II - The Fair Times‘ time is now (part 2)

The workshops were facilitated by 3 NGOs, members of FOND Romania: Association “Assistance and Programs for Sustainable Development – Agenda 21”, “Mai Bine” Association and New Horizons Foundation.
For more information regarding the event, please refer to the full report:

Media coverage of the event:
https://www.euractiv.ro/we-develop/fond-romania-da-startul-celei-de-a-11-a-editii-a-scolii-romane-de-dezvoltare-14848
https://www.euractiv.ro/we-develop/lectiile-invitate-din-presedintia-consiliului.-predare-de-stafeta.-trio-ul-de-sprinjen-pentru-6-presedintii-15071
https://www.euractiv.ro/we-develop/fond-romania-a-publicat-raportul-celei-de-a-11-a-editii-a-scolii-romane-de-dezvoltare-15320

This report is an evaluation of the 11th edition of the Romanian Development Camp “From Words to Action: Fostering synergies for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals”, organized between 26th – 28th of June, 2019 in Bucharest. The evaluation was carried out through an online survey completed by 32% of all participants (36 responses/113 participants). The response rate was considered sufficient to allow findings and conclusions to be drawn from the survey findings.

KEY FINDINGS:

I. Profile of participants:
The majority of participants had a non-governmental background (77,8%), while others (13,9%) were representatives of governmental institutions. Just 7,9% of the responses received belonged to representatives of the European Commission, sustainability consultants, International Organizations (UN System).
II. Rating of the 11th edition of the Romanian Development Camp (overall event)

The majority of respondents rated the overall event as “Excellent” (63.9%) and “Very good” (33.3%). None of the participants who completed the online evaluation form evaluated the event as “Poor”.

III. Relevance of topics

When considering the relevance of the topics approached, 44.4% of the respondents considered the topics presented as “Very relevant” to their needs and interests, while 41.7% regarded them as “Relevant”. None of the respondents considered the topics to be “Irrelevant”.

IV. Further use of information: In what concerns the usage of the information acquired during the event (open question), the participants specified that they will use it for: their current and future projects/activities, advocacy messages, dissemination with colleagues, friends and relevant stakeholders, their analytical work (reports, research, etc.), improving knowledge and communication, monitoring the activity of the Government, for building future partnerships and networking.
V. Rating of the Plenary Sessions and Parallel Thematic Parallel Workshops of the event

Both plenary sessions and workshops were appreciated by the participants as being relevant to their need of information.

The most appreciated plenary sessions were:

- **Day III - Closing session: Hand-over & Priorities for the next Presidencies: Finland & Croatia** Plenary (18 respondents)
- **Day II - Youth engagement in the implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Session** (17 respondents)
- **Day II - Working together in the context of Agenda 2030: Exploring the partnership between the private sector and civil society organizations** (16 respondents)
As for the **Thematic Parallel Workshops**, the best rated ones were:
- Day II - Parallel Workshop I - Empowering youth for achieving SDGs (16 respondents)
- Day I - Parallel Workshops I - Be inclusive! (14 respondents)

![Thematic Parallel Workshops (rating)](image)

**VI. What other topics would you have considered relevant for the event?**

Among other topics identified by the participants as relevant, it may be mentioned:

- Food waste
- Media education
- Advocacy
- Synergies
- SDG indicators
- CSOs common grounds
- Romania strategy
- Fairtrade
- HLPF
- Reducing inequalities
- Quality education
- Degrowth
- Gender equality
- Climate change
VII. Logistics

a) Materials: 72.2% of the respondents appreciated the materials provided for this event as "Excellent" and 27.8% as "Good".

b) Information provided by the organizers: Most of the respondents (83.3%) appreciated the logistical information provided by the organizers as "Very helpful".

c) Location and other facilities:

How do you rate overall the facilities at the location?

Most of the participants appreciated the location and other facilities as being "Excellent". Two of the attendees mentioned that they had difficulties in understanding the speakers because the acoustics of the conference room was not very good.

VIII. Conclusions and recommendations

Overall, this evaluation has found that the 11th edition of the Romanian Development Camp has largely met its set goals considering the key findings from survey participants:

- The majority of respondents rated the overall event as “Excellent” (63.9%) and “Very good” (33.3%);
- 86.1% of the respondents considered that the topics presented throughout the event were “Very relevant” (44.4%) and “Relevant” (41.7%) to their needs and interests.

Both plenary sessions and workshops were appreciated by the participants as being relevant to their need for information.

The added value of the conference was anticipated to be networking and raising awareness about the 2030 Agenda which were confirmed by most participants as having been achieved.

To reinforce and build on the success of the 11th edition of the Romanian Development Camp, the following recommendations are proposed for the 12th edition and those beyond. Further specific suggestions from participants are summarized below:
INTERACTIVITY & NETWORKING
Some of the participants proposed that the next edition of the Romanian Development Camp should have a more interactive approach and more practical activities. For example, one suggestion from participants was to invite, both in plenary sessions and in workshops, NGOs that could share their experiences and lessons learned in the field of development cooperation. Other suggestions were to invite more representatives from the private sector and organizing smaller events on the conference topics with representatives from politics, economy, civil society in order to emphasize the advocacy work on main messages. An interesting proposal was to create a closed Facebook group (social media tools) to engage participants in discussions between the different editions of the Romanian Development Camp.

CONTENT ISSUES
Regarding the content of the event, the participants suggested a greater focus on SDG 4 (Quality Education) and on the ways of boosting the collaboration between civil society and central institutions from the perspective of the implementation of SDGs. Some of the participants also suggested organizing a follow-up event on the Black Sea Region Cooperation.

ORGANIZATION & LOGISTICS
Other suggestions regarding the event and which will be considered for organizing the following editions of the Romanian School of Development were: to have a wrap-up session at the end of the panels (including workshops), to reduce the duration of the event (2 days event), more preparation of the speakers before the event regarding the needs and interests of potential participants, the use of a simple language, without acronyms and abbreviations and with explanations for certain concepts and figures used in presentations / speeches, to pay even more attention to sustainability issues (plastic free event, etc.).