

# A view on CSO resilience from the Black Sea Region

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# A bit about FOND & the Black Sea NGO Forum

- ▶ **The Romanian NGDO Platform - FOND** is a federation of 33 member organisations from Romania active in international development cooperation and humanitarian aid
- ▶ **Black Sea NGO Forum** - one of the most important initiatives of FOND, focusing on fostering regional cooperation among civil society organisations (CSOs) in the region and promoting dialogue among a variety of stakeholders
- ▶ 2 main strategic directions: creation of regional thematic networks & promoting enabling environment for CSOs in the Black Sea Region
- ▶ At the last edition, 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> of November 2018 in Brussels, one of the main themes was CSO resilience

# Why talk about CSO resilience?

- ▶ **RESILIENCE** - a very trendy concept now
- ▶ A lot of documents especially coming from the EU are talking about resilience, especially from a security stand point
- ▶ Civil society plays an important role in ensuring **society resilience** by promoting democratic values and the rule of law, holding governments accountable, ensuring public participation and working with communities
- ▶ What to do now when civil society space is shrinking? We must focus on ways to strengthen **CSO resilience** in the face of these attacks

# How would a resilient CSO look like?



# But how? Key issues identified by Black Sea NGO Forum participants

Internal	External
Long-term strategy based on values	Make your CSO visible - public campaigns focused on success stories and impact
Visionary leadership	Be transparent and accountable
Evaluations & risk assessments	Go local
Strong governance & accountability	Focus on youth & education
Funding strategy	Effective networking, cooperation and partnerships
Communication strategy	Active in networks and coalitions
High quality services and expertise	Share your knowledge & expertise

# The role of other stakeholders

- ▶ ***Governments:*** Policies and legislation that allow civil society to operate freely and support its development
- ▶ ***Donors:*** Core funding, support for long-term projects, support for networks and coalitions, support for cooperation and experience sharing
- ▶ ***General public:*** Increased public participation, recognition of CSO role & valuable contribution to society

# The new Black Sea NGO Forum project

## Objectives:



## The Black Sea NGO Forum will have:

- A new BSNNGOF virtual interactive platform;
- Improved communication instruments with CSOs from the Region;
- A revised "Strategic Framework for Civil Society Cooperation in the Black Sea Region".

## Opportunities for CSOs from the Region:

- Mobility Fund for Experts in the Black Sea Region;
- Leadership & organizational development programme for CSO leaders;
- Training & mentoring programme for regional CSO networks;
- Sub-granting scheme for the development of regional networks & BSNNGOF Working Groups;
- Visibility events in Brussels.

# Thank you for your attention!

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