



LITHUANIAN PRESIDENCY 2009–2010



IX BALTIC SEA NGO FORUM CSO EMPOWERMENT: COOPERATION, INNOVATION AND SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

16-17 April 2010
Hotel PANORAMA
Sodu str. 14, Vilnius, Lithuania
DRAFT PROGRAMME

16 April, Friday

- 10.00 – 11.00 Registration
- 11.00 – 11.30 **Welcoming /opening speeches**
HE Dalia Grybauskaitė, President of the Republic of Lithuania
Mr Audronius Ažubalis, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic
- 11.30 – 12.00 **Baltic Sea Strategy: Next Steps**
Representative of the European Commission
- 12.00 – 12.30 **Coffee break.**
Audio – visual installation and NGO exhibition/market in the lobby
- 12.30 – 13.00 **Institutional capacity of the NGO sector**, Ms Ingrid Shulerud, Deputy Director General for Central Europe and EEA-financing in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- 13.00 – 13.30 **Key milestones of the NGO development**, *Expert from the Council of Europe*
- 13.30 – 14.00 **Main principles of the NGO activity**: legitimacy, transparency and accountability, Kristina Mand, LTA Officer of CIVICUS World Alliance for Citizen Participation
- 14.00 – 15.00 **Lunch**
- 15.00 – 15.20 **Introduction and distribution to the working groups**
- 15.20 – 18.00 **Work in sessions:**
1. Interregional Cooperation
 2. Innovations and Development
 3. Strengthening of the NGO sector
- 18.30 – 19.00 **Wrap up session**, Kaernae, Paevi, Baltic Sea NGO Forum Finnish Focal Point
- 20.00 – 22.00 **Reception**

17 April, Saturday

- 8.30 – 9.00 Registration, coffee
- 9.00 – 10.00 Continuation of discussions in working groups (drafting decisions and resolutions)
- 10.00 – 12.00 Panel session: presentation of the results of the working groups
- 12.00 – 13.00 Lunch (*drafting and distribution of resolution*)
- 13.00 – 14.00 Final consideration and approval of the resolution
- 14.00 – 14.30 Closing speeches: H.E. Mr. Steinar Gil, the Ambassador of Norway to Lithuania
Neris Germanas, ambassador, Head of the Secretariat for the Lithuanian Presidency of the Council of the Baltic Sea States
Jens William Grav, Danish focal point
Martinas Žaltauskas, Lithuanian focal point
- 14.30 – 18.00 I. Thematic sessions (Lifelong Learning, Environment and Energy, Intercultural Dialogue, Civil Dialogue)
II. Site visits to NGOs or Vilnius sightseeing tour



I workshop: Interregional Cooperation

Cooperation is one of the main principles of the activity of organisations ensuring their development and efficiency. International programs and financial instrument for the sector aim to strengthen the partnerships in this sector, exchange of knowledge, experiences and competences, integration into common networks.

The working group will aim to overview the goals and benefits of international cooperation, the advantages and drawbacks of international programs and financial instruments, the specific features of their national implementation. Special attention will be paid to outline the unique features and strengths of the NGO cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region.

Moderator: Rasma Pipike, executive director, Civic Alliance Latvia (CAL)

Inputs (each presentation no longer than 15 min):

Interregional Cooperation

1. EEE/Norwegian financial mechanism Officer: Financial Instruments for NGO Cooperation in the Baltic Region under the EEA/Norway financial mechanisms – regional overview
2. **Birutė Jatautaitė**, Centre for Community change: comparative analysis of Norwegian and Swiss financial instruments
3. **Bo Harald Tillberg**, head of Nordic Council of Ministers Office in Lithuania: Programme's input to NGO cooperation (tbc)
4. **Dr. Klaus Rave**, managing Director of Baltic Sea Region Programme: Programme's input to NGO cooperation (tbc)
5. EuropeAid Officer: Development Cooperation Programme as a possibility for NGO cooperation in region (tbc)
6. **Darja Akhutina**, general director, Norden Association, St. Petersburg: Fields, Principles and Added Value of the Cooperation in Baltic Sea Region

II workshop: Innovations and Development of NGOs

The NGO sector is known for its vitality and ability to adapt to new developments, in reaction to continuously changing situation and the needs of the society. It is important to identify the impact of innovative ideas and activities for social and political developments, as well as their expediency with regard to the mission and objectives of the sector. What are the essential achievements and value-added of the sector in this field in the region?

The working group will review the competitive power of NGOs if compared to state institutions and private companies, its contribution to the national GDP, cooperation with businesses in introducing innovations, best practices in the Baltic Sea Region.

Moderator:

Inputs (each presentation no longer than 15 min):

Innovations for the NGO Sector

1. **Giedrius Kadziauskas**, Lithuanian Free Market: Institute Competitiveness: NGOs vs State Institutions
2. **Nilda Bullain**, Executive director of European Centre for Non-Profit Law: NGO Input in National GDPs to Create a Empowered Society
3. **Žana Jackevičienė**, “Microsoft”: Cooperation of NGOs with Private Businesses in Providing Public Services
4. **Lyra Jakulevičienė**, Head of United Nations Development Programme in Lithuania: NGO and Corporate Social Responsibility
5. **Alexander Karpov**, director of ECOM: Commitment of NGOs in Developing Innovations
6. **Iveta Kašoka**, researcher, Centre for public Policy PROVIDUS: Web 2.0 and civic activism: success stories

III workshop: Strengthening of the NGO Sector

Active civic participation in building a state ensures its democratic development, transparent management and positive international image. NGOs play the main role in the strengthening of civil society, the cooperation with national institutions and the representation of public groups.

The working group will examine the current NGO situation in the region, its place in decision making, contribution to the development of a democratic society. Also, the issues of public opinion about the sector, possibilities of increasing public reliance and participation in the activities of public benefit, the principles of transparency and accountability of NGOs will be considered.

Moderator: Jan William Grav, *Danish focal point*

Inputs: (each presentation no longer than 15 min:

1. Overview of the NGO Situation in the Countries of the Baltic Sea Region (*5 min each*)
2. **Šarūnas Frolenko**, Chair of the National NGO Coalition in Lithuania: NGO and Governmental institutions – Cooperation and Participation in Decision Making Process
3. **Kristina Mand**, LTA Officer of CIVICUS World Alliance for Citizen Participation: NGO Role in Public Benefit and Public Interest
4. **Rytis Juozapavičius**, expert on transparency: Public Image of NGO Sector: Level of Awareness and Participation
5. **Anna Mazgal**: NGO sector and participation
6. Council of Europe expert: Code of Good Practice for Civil Participation in Decision Making