**REPORT**

of the Black Sea Regional Conference

„Enabling the Civic Space for Freedom of Expression, Freedom of Assembly and Association­”

Black Sea Regional Conference on Human Rights and Freedoms was organized by initiative of the “Free Citizen” Civic Initiatives Support Center NGO (Yerevan, Armenia) in partnership with the GlobalFocus Center (Bucharest, Romania) and the Protection of Rights without Borders NGO (Yerevan, Armenia), with logistic coordination of the Romanian NGDO FOND and with support of European Commission in Kiev (Ukraine) on 21 July 2017.

The Conference gathered together representatives of 30 organizations and networks, as well as representatives of the state bodies from 8 Non-EU Black Sea Synergy countries dealing in the field of Human Rights and Freedoms to discuss the topic **„Enabling the Civic Space for Freedom of Expression, Freedom of Assembly and Association”**, and to create a Network of regional NGOs and experts for further cooperation. 15 presentations, including of 8 country-presentations was made at a Conference, which was followed by the Q&A and discussions with active involvement of the participants.

Number of planned participants per country was: Ukraine (host) - 5, Armenia – 4, Azerbaijan – 2, Belarus -3, Georgia – 2, Moldova -2, Russia – 3, Turkey – 3, Romania – 3, Bulgaria – 1, Belgium – 1, France – 1. In total – 30. Since some of previously agreed participants canceled their participation closer to the event by different personal reasons, the balance of the participants between countries was little bit changed. The final list of participants was the following: Ukraine (host) - 3, Armenia – 5, Azerbaijan – 3, Belarus -2, Georgia – 3, Moldova -2, Russia – 2, Turkey – 2, Romania – 5, Bulgaria – 2, France – 1. In total – 30. So the total number of participants agreed upon (maximum 30 \* including speakers, representatives of organisers and local organisations, has been respected.

Based on the made presentations a Resolution on Deteriorated Situation of Human Rights in the Black Sea Region has been developed by the Conference participants.

**The objectives of the conference** have been achieved, particularly:

1. Some relevant stakeholders and decision makers at national, regional and international level was identified and contacted with to enable civic space and application of the standards for freedom of expression, freedom of assembly and association, and right to fair trial.

2. The network of NGOs of the region has been created, the signing of the Memorandum among potential partners and networks on future partnership and collaboration, including the development of common strategies, activities, future project ideas on joint actions was initiated and preliminarily agreed by participants and will be developed and signed in a few weeks.

3. The transfer of expertise from EU-member states to non-EU MS, in terms of human rights NGO capacity building and enabling civic space for freedom of expression, association and assembly has been provided.

All **expected results** of the Conference have been achieved, particularly:

1. Common understanding and relevant viewpoints for the freedom of expression and for the freedom of assembly was established, what was fixed in the Resolution of the Conference.
2. 30 representatives of the genuine Human Rights organisations and decision makers from 8 Non-EU Black Sea Synergy countries and some EU MS was participated at the conference;
3. The situation in each of 8 Non-EU Black Sea Synergy countries was presented;
4. The mechanism of cooperation between EU and non-EU countries (transfer of expertise facilitation) was presented and discussed;
5. The network ­ of NGOs from 8 non-EU and some EU countries, working in the field of the Human Rights and Freedoms was created;
6. Resolution of the Black Sea Regional Conference on Human Rights on situation with the SCO and Civic activists in the region was drafted and developed based on the presentations made during the Conference. Final adobtion of the Resolution will happen in a few weeks after the event on-line.

**The responsibilities** of the applicant were met:

“Free Citizen” CISC NGO, as an applicant organisation provides the logistic coordinator with the necessary logistic information required, together with the draft agenda of the event (including speakers);

“Free Citizen” CISC NGO, as an applicant organization, in partnership with the GlobalFocus Center and the Protection of Rights without Borders NGO:

- Elaborated of the agenda and concept;

- Elaborated the list of participants;

- Sent invitations;

- Managed confirmations;

- Ensured the visibility of the event.

The logistic coordinator was informed periodically on the organisation of the meeting content wise.

**Loglstics** was supported**:**

In order to ensure a good implementation of the logistic procedure, the “Free Citizen” CISC NGO:

* Provided the logistic coordinator with precise information regarding the: total number of participants, number of participants/country targeted/ and any other logistic request limited to the list of eligible costs written in the Call for Proposals Terms of Reference.
* Provided the logistic coordinator with the draft agenda which includes speakers name, surname, organisation, country) in 1 month and a half before the event. Unfortunately, due to some last-minute cancellation by some of the speakers of their participation in the event, it was impossible to send the final agenda in a 2 weeks before the event to the logistic coordinator and it was done only during the last week before the event.
* Kept the logistic coordinator periodically updated with regard to the confirmations received. Unfortunately, due to some last-minute cancellation by some of the participants of their participation in the event, it was impossible to send the final list of participants in a 2 weeks before the event to the logistic coordinator and it was done only during the last week before the event.
* Notified the logistic coordinator with regard to any logistic details within the agreed upon logistic Terms of References that need to be sent to the contractor for implementation (for example: arrangement of the conference room, time of the coffee and lunch breaks etc.);
* Notified the logistic coordinator with regard to any changes the applicant organisation wishes to make to the requests in the logistic Terms of Reference (within the limit of the eligible costs and with the exception of the location and date of the meeting);
* Respected the deadlines given by the logistic coordinator for providing information to the logistic organisation of the meeting, when it was technically possible;

**Co-funding** was provided:

“Free Citizen” CISC NGO, as an applicant organisation ensured co-funding by covering Conference room with equipment, including interpretation equipment. The co-funding was provided by the partner of the applicant – GlobalFocus Center.

**Visibility** was insured:

Visibility of the European Commission, the Romanian NGD0 Platform - FOND and the Black Sea NGO

Forum was ensured on all materials elaborated under this activity, whether the applicant chooses to disseminate them online or offline (this included agenda, invitations, signboard, Resolution etc.).

The applicant sent the visibility materials to the logistic coordinator before they was made public.