

Workshops

This paper provides a bit more detail on the focus of the different workshops at the NGOforum09.

The objective is that each workshop will agree on a set of recommendations, aimed both at the political decision makers and actors in civil society. Each workshop rapporteur will take notes and summarize the agreed recommendations from the workshop participants. These recommendations will be used as the basis for the official conference recommendations and conclusion, which will be voted on during the final plenary.

Theme one: Democratic deficit

1. Citizenship

Active citizenship and the role of civil society for mobilization and participation of citizens.

The term "active citizenship" is widely used in everyday language but what does it mean in the context of mobilization and participation? This workshop will explore civil society's role in facilitating and realizing active citizenship. In this sense, citizenship is equal to participation in the democratic process, engaging in political discussion and decision-making etc. Topics such as participatory democracy as a complement to representative democracy will be raised. Questions to reflect on are the conditions and opportunities necessary for effective civic participation, how active citizenship can be promoted as well as what kind of institutions and forms of participation should be foreseen. Which role can and should civil society play to facilitate mobilization and citizens' participation?

Moderation: Dr. Frank Heuberger, Bundesnetzwerk Burgerschaftliches Engagement (BBE)

Speaker 1: Mr. Kenan Kadzmusic, ECAS

Speaker 2: Ms. Melody Ross, Active Citizenship Network, Cittadiniativa

Rapporteur: Ms. Diane Grossot, Think Tank Pour la Solidarité

2. Civil Society Organizations as Bridges

The role of civil society organizations as a bridge between citizens and authorities.

The democratic deficit and, as a result, the gap between citizens and the decision-making process is a reality. One key areas of expertise for civil society organisations is to channel joint citizen concerns to decision-makers through gathering concern citizens around a specific area of interest. How can civil society organizations work better to serve as a bridge between citizens and authorities? Can civil society build bridges to overcome the lack of trust between citizens and decision makers? What are the challenges and opportunities for organised civil society to act as these bridges? What are the necessary requirements for civil society organizations to fulfill this role?

Moderation: Mr. Luigi Martignetti, REVES

Speaker 1: Mr. Jean Marc Roirant, ECF

Speaker 2: Mr. Chuck Hirt, CEE Citizens Network

Rapporteur: Ms. Anne Hoel, Social Platform.

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3. Multilevel Governance

Participatory democracy and civil society role in the shift from government to governance.

There is an ongoing shift from government to governance in the EU with, as a result, an increase of non-state actors in the decision-making. This workshop will explore multilevel governance and what this changing context means for democratic accountability. In this shift is there a greater understanding of how to handle multilevel and multidimensional dialogues? How has multilevel governance changed the actions of civil society organizations? How is multilevel governance connected to representative democracy and participatory democracy? How does multilevel governance impact how we work? Do we need to change or adapt and should we?

Moderator: Mr. Oliver Henman, International Manager, National Council for Volunteer Organisation.

Speaker 1: Prof. Dr. Anette Zimmer, University of Münster

Speaker 2: Dr. Peter Herrmann, University College of Cork

Rapporteur: Mr. David Lopez, French League of Education

4. Civil Dialogue Initiatives

Innovative instruments for civil dialogue, the connection between national agreements, and EU civil dialogue structures and the code of good practice for civil participation.

Many European countries have signed frameworks agreements or similar structures for cooperation between civil society and the state. This workshop will share experiences from these processes and look at how these inspiring examples can be built upon at European level. The joint initiative at European level for a charter for a structured civil dialogue with the EU Institutions will be touched upon as well as the connection to the Council of Europe INGO-Conference's Code of Good Practice for Civil Participation in the Political Decision-Making Process. The workshop aims at sharing experiences and exploring a common approach for a structured civil dialogue at European level to improve the opportunities for civil society actors at all levels to get involved in the political decision making process. Are the common needs for a structured European civil dialogue? How does it complement national structures? Which actors should be involved? What are the key common concerns and areas of interest?

Moderator: Ms. Ariane Rodert, Vice President CEDAG

Speaker 1: Ms. Iamvi Totsi, V. President of the INGO-Conference of Council of Europe

Speaker 2: Mr. Urmo Kubar, Executive Director, Network of Estonian Non Profit Organisations.

Rapporteur: Ms. Tina Michieli, Project Manager at the (CNVOS).

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Theme two: Public health and wellbeing

5. Indicators for Societal Progress

Benefits and consequences of indicators of health or wellbeing in national reporting systems and procurement procedures.

This workshop will describe new tools for measuring progress that include social relations, wellbeing and ecological footprint. The aim being to widen the image of what progress really is. The different tools created and tested by the New Economics foundation are described, political relevance and impetus is gained from the proposal from President Sarkozy. What could this new way of describing progress mean for public health and for the political process?

Moderator: Mr. Ludvig Sandberg, Political Analyst, Forum for Voluntary Social Work.

Speaker 1: Mr. Saamah Abdallah, The New Economics Foundation

Speaker 2: Ms. Alison Pollard, The Big Lottery.

Rapporteur: Ms. Sonja Gruber, PlanSinn

6. Taking Active Part in Society

Empowerment through volunteering and the cooperative principles.

Involvement and activity is generally giving people the tools for transformation, growth and empowerment. There are at least two main ways for people to get involved through the civil society; through volunteering and through social enterprising. This workshop will describe both volunteering and entrepreneurial instruments for increasing citizens' inclusion and empowerment processes. It will give practical recommendations on how we as societies could make it even easier to widen these two ways to involvement.

Moderator: Ms. Chiara Ginanni, Caritas Ambrosiana

Speaker 1: Ms. Ulrika Erksell, Volontärbyrån (Volunteer Bureau of Sweden)

Speaker 2: Mr. Victor Pestov Prof. Emiritus

Rapporteur: Ms. Elisabeth Lindgren, Founder, Villa Vägen Ut Susanne

7. Evidence and Added Value

Securing quality and competence in civil society engagement in public health issues -value of the public-civil society cooperation.

There is a belief that civil society brings an added value to activities of different sorts. There also is a strong societal demand for measurement and evaluations. What kinds of methods are used today to prove and improve public-civil society cooperation? What kinds of experience and knowledge are considered as measurable? Who decides this? No evaluation tool can measure all aspects. What happens if the methods used and the evidence that they produce, fail to recognize important aspects of the added value? Is the value then not there? This workshop gives recommendations on how to proceed with these delicate issues.

Moderator: Mr. Hans Andersson, Cesam

Speaker 1: Mr. Andrea Volterrani, Foundation of Third Sector

Speaker 2: Ms. Karine Pflüger, Social Economy Europe

Rapporteur: TBC

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8. Healthy Regions

The role of volunteering and civil society in creating healthy regions.

Having friends, eating good food, being included in society, having good living conditions, being employed, exercising regularly are some of the essential factors behind health. What role does civil society play now and what could we do in the future? How may we ensure close cooperation between public sector and the civil society to obtain this?

Moderator: Mr. Tomas Falk, Head of Unit, Medicin of society Örebro County Council

Speaker 1: Ms. Katie Kelsy, NIACE

Speaker 2: Ms. Tamara Flanagan, Volonteuropé.

Rapporteur: Mr. Piotr Sadowsky, Volonteuropé.

Theme three: NGO identity

9. Social Measurement Methods

Proving and improving public-NGO cooperation added value through social measurements. Effects of the methods we use.

The main issue for the workshop is to debate different evaluation tools in order to measure social return on any type of investments in a broader sense. Civil society organisations adapt to the demands that evaluation and audit methods is used in order to prove the benefit for the market. What type of future development is this affecting the civil society as a whole. OECD and Sarkozy demands new types of social measurement in for example public procurement - how is this affecting the civil society role as service provider? Based on a discussion about current trends in evaluation of civil society organizations, what tools for measurement that is chosen, the workshop will focus the long term effects of this on civil society?

Moderator: Mr. Gordon Hahn, Director Social Economy and Regional Development in Scandinavia.

Speaker 1: Ms. Carole Dane ([IRDSU](#))

Speaker 2: Mr. Thomas Schneider, FAMNA Non-profit providers within health and social care.

Rapporteur: Mr. Per-Anders Eriksson, Soft Financing

10. New Roles and Responsibilities of NGOs

Issues and opportunities of combining service provision and protection of user rights and Civil society organizations as citizens voice.

There is an ongoing trend that civil society organizations take on a wider responsibility for service provision. Is it possible for an organization to be political and citizen voice at the same time as it is producing and selling services? Can we set the policy agenda, challenge structures in society, advocating the needs of people that are in difficult positions at the same time as we deliver services? Under what circumstances can this balance be achieved?

Moderator: Mr. Conny Reuter, President Social Platform

Speaker 1: Ms Gunta Anca, Director SUSTENTO

Speaker 2: Ms. Chiarra Luchini, Caritas Ambrosiana

Rapporteur: Ms. Erdmuthe Klaer, REVES

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11. Widening Entrepreneurship

Making entrepreneurship accessible to more actors through social enterprises.

Social enterprises increase the possibilities for social inclusion of people, that for some reason have been unable to enter the labour market. This provides a lot of different positive effects on a personal level as well as on a societal level. Social enterprises are built up in different ways across Europe and prove to be important for labour market policies. This workshop will provide examples of social enterprise development in EU as well as raise the questions on could social enterprises become even more accessible to actors than it is today? What role should social enterprises play on EU level?

Moderator: Mr. Jan Olsson, European Economic and Social Committee.

Speaker 1: Mr. Roman Haken, Centre for Com. Org.Centr. Moravia

Speaker 2: Ms. Maria Nieves Ramos, FAIDEI

Rapporteur: Ms. Eva Johansson, Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth – Tillväxtverket.

12. Financial Diversity

Ways to enhance the capacity and independence of civil society organizations.

What is the best way to secure a steady and large enough financing of the civil society? Is a European Bank for funding the civil society a good idea? Or should the financing systems be more locally based? Or is it possible to see a combination of the two systems? How would a good balance between a central system and local systems be organized?

Moderator: Ms. Lisa Fröbel Chair, Social Economy and Regional Development in Scandinavia.

Speaker 1: Mr. Filipo Adarii, Executive Director Euclid Network.

Speaker 2: Mr. Christoph Guene, Director of Social Finance, Progress SOFI

Rapporteur: Ms. Dana Nicolesco, Opportunities Associates Romania

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