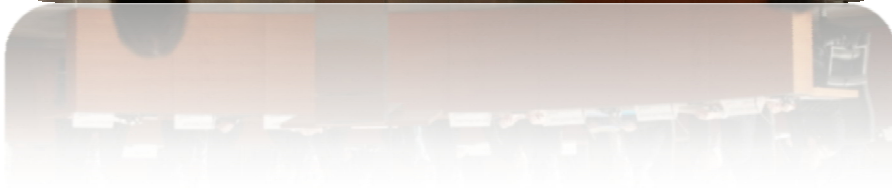




## LJUBLJANA CONGRESS

**16-18 APRIL 2008**

*"Civil Society Organizations Challenge Public Authorities"*  
EU Candidate and Potential Candidate Countries





## UVOD

Mednarodno evropsko gibanje in Slovenski svet evropskega gibanja sta ob podpori Evropske komisije, Mestne občine Ljubljana, Državnega zbora RS in Vlade RS med 16. in 18. aprilom 2009 v Ljubljani organizirala mednarodni kongres o vlogi organizacij civilne družbe v procesu integracije držav kandidatk za vstop v EU in potencialnih držav kandidatk z naslovom »Organizacije civilne družbe izzovejo predstavnike oblasti«.

Ta pomemben mednarodni dogodek je bil namenjen državam jugovzhodne Evrope, katerega cilj je bil oblikovanje predlogov za izboljšanje sodelovanja med civilno družbo ter lokalnimi, nacionalnimi in evropskimi oblastmi. Dogodek spada v okvir prizadevanj za krepitev vloge organizacij civilne družbe na Zahodnem Balkanu v procesu približevanja držav tega območja Evropski uniji.

Na Ljubljanskem kongresu so poleg predstavnikov organizacij civilne družbe sodelovali tudi visoki predstavniki vlad in parlamentov iz regije. Ljubljanskega Kongresa so se udeležili visoki predstavniki iz Albanije, Bosne in Hercegovine, Črne gore, Hrvaške, Kosova, Makedonije in Turčije, prav tako pa tudi predsednik Državnega zbora dr. Pavel Gantar ter predsednik Vlade Republike Slovenije Borut Pahor.

Kongres se je pričel 16. aprila s slovesnostjo na Ljubljanskem gradu, ki jo je pripravila Mestna občina Ljubljana ter se v petek, 17. aprila nadaljeval na Gospodarskem razstavišču, kjer so predstavniki organizacij civilne družbe sodelovali v sedmih delovnih skupinah z jasnim ciljem - oblikovati zaključni dokument, ki je bil v soboto, 18. aprila 2009, v Državnem zboru na zaključni debati predstavljen predstavnikom oblasti iz regije.

Ljubljanski kongres je združil 186 predstavnikov organizacij civilne družbe ter nacionalne, lokalne in evropske oblasti.

## WHO WE ARE

### European Movement

The European Movement is an international organisation **open to all political, economic, social and cultural trends in civil society**. Its objective is to "contribute to the establishment of a united, federal Europe founded on the respect for basic human rights, peace principles, democratic principles of liberty and solidarity and citizens' participation". **Its 44 National Councils and 23 associated Member Organizations** work towards bringing together representatives of European associations, political parties, enterprises, trade unions and individual lobbyists.

Born over half a century ago, the European Movement has played a crucial role in the construction of Europe. The European Movement's main focus of attention centres on **influencing political, social and cultural arenas within the framework of the European Civil Society**.

The European Movement works as a **study and information group**, and also as a pressure group. It operates as a study and information group through the many projects and activities undertaken, and has been at the forefront in helping large segments of the public take part in the dissemination of

information on European affairs and activities. It operates as a **pressure group through the influence exerted by its members at all levels in each sector of activity**. The European Parliament, Commission, national parliaments, authorities and governments, business-people, industry associations, NGOs and the many associations which make up the civil society in Europe have been influenced through the European Movement's network of contacts.

Influence is exerted at the EU level via the European Movement International and its individual member organizations and at the level of member countries through national councils covering a geographical area that extends from Iceland to Turkey and from Portugal to Finland. **The European Movement is also the only NGO of its type that covers almost all of Europe**, i.e. the EU countries, the candidate countries as well as non-candidate countries, and as such provides effective information dissemination with a large multiplier effect across Europe.

An opportunity to support the European Movement is therefore given to all those who want Europe to progress towards a stronger, more democratic and efficient union with a strong voice on the international stage.

## **European Movement Slovenia**

Slovenian Council of the European Movement was established in 1992 and was operating actively until 2004, when it became inactive until March 2008 for various reasons. The objective of the Slovenian Council of the European Movement is promotion of Europe for citizens as well as being **a unifying link between representatives of the civil society and its representatives in national and European politics.**

Ljubljana Congress, which will take place on 16–18 April 2009, will be the first larger activity of the Slovenian Council of the European Movement after its revival. In addition to the Congress, the Slovenian Council of the European Movement will strive to bring the European elections 2009 closer to the voters and will organise a celebration of Europe's Day on 9 May.

Slovenian Council of the European Movement functions as a national council of the European Movement International and is chaired by An Krumberger. After Slovenia joined the EU, the Slovenian Council became inactive; before that, its founding members, among others were Anton Bebler, Davorin Kračun, Spomenka Hribar and Ignac Golob, who chaired the Slovenian Council of the European Movement until his death in 2002.

Today the Slovenian Council of the European Movement is working to accomplish the objectives of the European Movement International that is to connect the representatives of European associations and institutions, political parties, enterprises, trade unions and other representatives of civil society.

### **History of the European Movement**

The origins of the European Movement date back to July 1947, to the time when the cause of a United Europe was being championed by notables such as Winston Churchill and Duncan Sandys in the form of the Anglo-French United European Movement. The UEM acted as a platform for the co-ordination of organizations created in the wake of WWII. As a result of their efforts, the congress of the Committee for the Co-ordination of the European Movements took place in Paris on 17 July 1947, incorporating "La Ligue Européenne de Coopération Economique" (LECE), "l'Union européenne des Fédéralistes" (UEF), "l'Union parlementaire européenne" (UPE) and the Anglo-French United European Movements. They met again on 10 November 1947 and changed their name to "Joint International Committee for European Unity". They retained this name until after the 1948 Congress of The Hague.

From 7 to 11 May 1948, 800 delegates from around Europe as well as observers from Canada and the United States gathered in

The Hague, The Netherlands, for the Congress of Europe. Organised by the International Committee of the Movements for European Unity and presided over by Winston Churchill, the Congress brought together representatives from across a broad political spectrum, providing them with the opportunity to discuss ideas about the development of the European Union. Important political figures such as Konrad Adenauer, Winston Churchill, Harold Macmillan, François Mitterrand, Paul-Henry Spaak, Albert Coppé and Altiero Spinelli took an active role in the congress and a call was made for a political, economic and monetary Union of Europe. This landmark conference was to have a profound influence on the shape of the European Movement, which was created soon afterwards.

The **European Movement** was formally created on 25 October 1948, when the Joint International Committee for European Unity decided to change its name. Duncan Sandys was elected President and Léon Blum, Winston Churchill, Alcide De Gasperi and Paul-Henri Spaak were elected as Honorary Presidents.

The first major achievement of the European Movement was the creation of the Council of Europe in May 1949. The European Movement was also responsible for the creation of the "Collège d'Europe" in Bruges and the European Centre of Culture in Geneva.

One of its major functions during the 1950s through to the 1990s was the setting up of think-tanks and a network of mobilization in the democratic countries of Europe and in countries subjected to totalitarian regimes.

## **INTRODUCTION**

The European Movement International and the European Movement Slovenia, in collaboration with the European Commission and the City of Ljubljana, and with the support of the National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia and the Slovenian Government, organised a Congress in Slovenia from 16–18 April 2009, on the role of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in the integration process of EU candidate and potential candidate countries, entitled “CSOs Challenge Public Authorities”.

The objective of the Congress was to develop a “CSO’s Political Challenge Chart” with recommendations addressed to public authorities in EU accession countries on how to support civil society in their region.

The Congress brought together about 200 representatives of Civil Society Organizations and European, national and local authorities. It received considerable media coverage through the European Broadcasting Union, RTV Slovenia, and Europe by Satellite.

## **POLITICAL CHALLENGE CHART OF LJUBLJANA CONGRESS**

*"Civil Society and Politics:  
Turning the Challenge into Opportunity*

*Ljubljana Congress, 16–18 April 2009*

*Civil Society development in the Western Balkans is a success story linked to the process of transition and EU accession. Civil society should not be patronized, it is further ahead and more knowledgeable than national authorities and the EU recognize.*

*We, Civil Society Organisations meeting in Ljubljana, congratulate the European Movement on bringing into our dialogue the representatives of Governments, Parliaments, and local authorities of the region in the Western Balkans and Turkey. This completes the triangle – Civil Society, EU and National Governments.*

*We call upon political leaders to express their support and recognition of the role of Civil Society Organizations as key actors in promoting democracy and an open society. In putting their support into practice, Governments and National Parliaments do not need to reinvent the wheel. The necessary ground*

*work has already been done by the Ljubljana Declaration of April 2008, its subsequent text, and the work done by DECIM<sup>1</sup>.*

*We suggest that the following three principles be observed in building a sustainable Civil Society in the Western Balkans and Turkey:*

- Public sector reform towards freedom of information, accountability and the rule of law is the reverse side of the coin to civil society development. One will not be achieved without the other.*
- Even if we are entering a period of closer partnership, the independence and autonomy of Civil Society must be respected. One which is reduced to a mere service provider and which does not criticize governments is of no use to governments.*
- There is a need to move from the principle to the practice of participation. The period of paper guidelines and cosmetic reforms should come to an end.*

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<sup>1</sup> Donor Exchange Cooperation and Information Mechanism

To put in place an enabling framework of **4 Ss**:

**S1: Strategy:** *there has to be political will at the senior level to establish and adopt across all departments of governments an enabling strategy for Civil Society Organization development agreed with Civil Society Organisations.*

**S2: Structures:** *structures are needed because political will is not enough. There needs to be a focal point in the government to which NGOs can relate. There is also a need for agencies to support Civil Society Organization development, and such agencies should also exist at the regional level. In time this will require better donor coordination and cross-sectoral coalition building among Civil Society Organizations.*

**S3: Sustainability:** *a mix of direct and indirect support mechanisms is needed to ensure sustainability, which is the responsibility of governments as donors. Their involvement can range from start-up grants for new organizations or coalitions to more structured partnerships for the provision of services. Support is also possible through tax benefits. There should be more equal distribution of public funding for Civil Society, specifically, it should reach otherwise overlooked organizations at*

*the local level. Whatever funding mix is adopted, it must be transparent and non-partisan.*

***S4: Standards for open government:*** *standards should be defined and implemented for participation not only of Civil Society Organisations but also for citizens as part of a wider concept of civil society in policy and decision-making processes, drawing on EU and OECD guidelines for information, consultation and participation. Nothing that concerns Civil Society Organizations should be discussed without their participation, which should include discussions between the European Commission and National Governments. Civil Society must be considered a third partner in the partnership when issues that concern its development are addressed.*

*These 4 Ss summarise many of the ten points in the Ljubljana and Zadar declarations, which form an integral part of this political challenge. It is now a question of taking these recipes for a sustainable Civil Society and implementing them at the national level. This process can be bolstered by intensifying dialogue and cooperation within the region, both among Governments and Civil Society Organizations. There is a need for exchange of information on reforms and for*

*mutual support in advocating their implementation. A strong Balkan Civil Society network is needed.*

*We recommend that the European Movement organize a similar Congress in Turkey to extend this process of dialogue and implementation.*

*Whilst the recession reinforces the validity of the Ljubljana Declaration and the need for medium-term structural reforms, it also calls for immediate action. We call on the EU and National Governments to create an emergency fund, only a fraction of the aid given to financial institutions or car manufacturers, to help the most excluded groups in society and prevent new social, regional and ethnic problems from arising.*

*We welcome the participation of political leaders. This European Movement event should be a turning point to dust off texts that have largely been disregarded until now and make sure that they are implemented. Let the long awaited political dialogue begin!*

*Ljubljana 17/04/2009"*

This document insists on the establishment of sustainable and coordinated relations with civil society actors in the Western Balkans and Turkey. In this context, it sets out principles that need to be upheld by the governments in their relations with CSOs: public sector reform, independence and autonomy of civil society, and practice, not just theory, of participation.

The chart calls for implementation at the national level of the suggested actions and also, in the context of the recession, puts forth the idea for the creation of an emergency fund to fight social exclusion in the countries of the Region. Furthermore, it recommends a follow-up event in Turkey in 2010 to extend the process of dialogue and implementation.

## PROGRAMME

### **Thursday, 16 April 2009 – Opening Session**

*Venue: Ljubljana Castle, Grajska planota 1, Ljubljana*

16h00–19h00: REGISTRATIONS

19h00–19h30: OPENING SPEECHES

- **Zoran Jankovič**, Mayor of Ljubljana
- **Pat Cox**, President of the European Movement
- **Pavel Gantar**, President of the National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia
- **An Krumberger**, President of the European Movement Slovenia

19h30: COCKTAIL – RECEPTION

### **Friday, 17 April 2009 – CSOs' Political Challenge Chart**

*Venue: Ljubljana Exhibition and Convention Centre, Dunajska cesta 18, Ljubljana*

09h00–09h30: PLENARY SESSION

- Welcome speech: **Pat Cox**, President of the European Movement
- Welcome speech: **Dragoljuba Benčina**, State Secretary

09h30–12h30: PARALLEL WORKSHOPS

- **CSO Coordination: Coalition Building and Networking**  
President: Jože Gornik, Director, Centre for Information, Cooperation and Development of Nongovernmental organisations; Rapporteur: Tony Venables, Director, European Citizen Action Service.

- **Strategy for a Sustainable Civil Society**

President: Igor Vidačak, Croatian Government Office for Cooperation with NGOs; Rapporteur: Tanja Hafner Ademi, Coordinator of Balkan Civil Society Development Network in Macedonia.

- **Donor Coordination**

President: Jan Pakulski, Senior Social Development Specialist, World Bank / Donor Exchange, Coordination and Information Mechanism; Rapporteur: Dragan Golubovic, Expert, European Centre for Not-for-Profit Law, Hungary.

12h30–14h00: FREE TIME FOR LUNCH

14h00–16h30: PARALLEL WORKSHOPS

- **Putting the Partnership Principle into Practice**

President: Miljenko Dereta, Civic Initiatives, Serbia; Rapporteur: Jutta Gützkow, Expert, Council of Europe.

- **Ensuring Equal Access to Funds and Reaching out to Small Organizations at the Local Level**

President: Jerry Salole, Chief Executive, European Foundation Centre; Rapporteur: Henrik H. Kröner, Secretary General, European Movement International.

16h30–17h00: COFFEE BREAK

17h00–18h00: PARALLEL WORKSHOPS

- **EU Programme DG Enlargement: Civil Society Facility**

President: Yvonne Kapella, Enlargement Directorate-General; Rapporteur: Nicolas Jammes, European Movement International

- **Multiplier Effect of the Ljubljana Congress**  
President: Cveto Stantič, Member of the European Economic and Social Committee; Rapporteur: Nevenka Koprivšek, Zavod Bunker.

17h00–18h00: MEETING OF WORKSHOP REPRESENTATIVES  
Drafting of the “CSOs’ Political Challenge Chart”

18h00–19h30: “CSOs’ Political Challenge Chart”  
Presentation by **Tony Venables, Director, European Citizen Action Service**

20h00: CULTURAL EVENING  
*Venue: City Museum Ljubljana, Gosposka 15, 1000 Ljubljana*

**Saturday, 18 April 2009 – Debate on CSOs’ Political Challenge Chart with EU and National Leaders**

*Venue: National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia, Šubičeva ulica 4, Ljubljana*

08h00–08h30: ARRIVAL OF PARTICIPANTS

08h40–09h20: PROTOCOL – arrival of political leaders

09h45–10h00: WELCOME WORDS

- **Pat Cox**, President, European Movement
- **Pavel Gantar**, President of the National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia
- **Zoran Janković**, Mayor of Ljubljana

10h00–11h30: CSOs’ POLITICAL CHALLENGE CHART

- Political statement: **Pavel Gantar**, President of the National Assembly of the RS
- Debate with **representatives of parliaments of EU Candidate and Potential Candidate countries**

*Moderated by Oana Lungescu, European Affairs  
Correspondent – BBC World Service Broadcast by the  
Slovenian National TV and European Broadcasting Union*

**11h30–12h15: Press conference with the representatives of the parliaments of EU Candidate and Potential Candidate countries**

12h15–14h00: FREE TIME FOR LUNCH

14h30–16h00: CSOs' POLITICAL CHALLENGE CHART

- Political statement: **Borut Pahor**, Prime Minister of the RS
- Debate with **the presidents of the governments of EU Candidate and Potential Candidate countries**

*Moderated by Oana Lungescu, European Affairs  
Correspondent – BBC World Service Broadcast by the  
Slovenian National TV and European Broadcasting Union*

16h00–16h15: CLOSING SPEECHES

- **Borut Pahor**, Prime Minister of the RS
- **Pat Cox**, President of the European Movement

**16h15–16h45: Press conference with the representatives of the governments of EU Candidate and Potential Candidate countries**

## **WORKSHOPS CONTENTS**

### **Workshop 1: CSO Coordination: Coalition Building and Networking**

The obstacles to coalition building have to be overcome: lack of resources and the tendency for CSOs to be in competition because of short-term funding considerations, rather than to see their medium-term common interests and that unless they come together they will have insufficient weight with national and EU authorities. Coalitions need capacity building if they are to achieve the combination of being effective and inclusive, a point which deserves more attention from donors.

Coalitions need to collect evidence from the participants, gather data from other sources, articulate well-grounded positions and work at different geographical levels. It is again for CSOs in each country to define their own needs and explore different ways to form coalitions:

- Advocacy coalitions, which are usually targeted on a specific policy or bill but can also be more general-purpose.
- Service delivery coalitions, which are partnerships organized at different geographical levels, among similar

or different actors, depending on the requirements of the particular project.

- Cross-sectoral partnerships, which are cooperative ventures often involving both CSOs and public or private bodies.

It is important to develop instruments to facilitate CSOs' networking by:

- Organizing study visits and scholarships to the EU Institutions and European Associations in the member states (such as the ones already organized by TAIEX of DG Enlargement).
- Opening up membership of European associations developed around the EU Institutions to CSOs from the region.
- Voicing national civil society interests at the EU level, to complete the triangle.
- Consistently including representatives of national ministries from the region in conferences, seminars and training, both in the region and in the EU.
- Giving free access to civil society representatives and multiplying entry visas until visa and liberalization is achieved.
- Enabling easier access to information.

- Public trust in a coalition is very important as well – the coalition should show results of the funding received. We have to show the need for a coalition – what do they want.
- When EC sets criteria, there should be better coordination between donors.
- In Turkey there is no official basis for networks – they cannot have bank accounts etc. So different organizations come together and create a new association.
- Recommendation: increase staff at embassies. Going from the needs to the higher levels: from local to national.

## **Workshop 2: Strategy for a Sustainable Civil Society**

Governments should consider what structures should be put in place centrally and across different departments for relations with civil society. This should be accompanied by longer-term identification of activities relevant to CSO participation across government. Each country should be encouraged to examine what longer-term objectives are achievable from the dynamics of the civil society, EU and national government triangle. Such a strategy should consider the following:

- Creation of an independent body to support CSOs, which would try to guarantee the autonomy of CSOs.

- External factors that present new challenges, threats or opportunities, such as economic and demographic trends, migration, social inequalities and the challenge of European integration.
- Internal factors, including the desirable spread of local, national and international sources of funding to ensure a sustainable civil society over the longer-term.
- Structures for dialogue and for taking civil society concerns into account across the government, as well as various implementations and monitoring mechanisms. A supportive environment goes beyond creating the right legal and fiscal environment. This is not enough to reach the European standards for civil society. There is no single European model but a wide range of different governance standards and institutional references are available:
  - European Commission minimum standards of consultation, but also the broader OECD guidelines for governments on information, consultation and participation, addressing both civil society and direct citizen participation.
  - Structures required within the government and in each ministry to support civil society, as well as intermediary and re-granting mechanisms, should be discussed with CSOs, so that they are there for them, not just the administration.

### **Workshop 3: Donor Coordination Session: Recommendations**

For CSOs donor coordination has the advantages of pooling different approaches, none of which can develop a viable civil society alone, and creating in DECIM an interlocutor of specialized public and private donors, covering a range of legal, fiscal, institutional, and cross-border issues. DECIM should be utilized as a mechanism to facilitate this process and to concentrate on civil society capacity building in the region. This coordination mechanism needs to be better known and move from the conceptual to the operational phase:

- Civil society organizations (CSOs) are an indispensable party in the efforts to improve donor coordination and in identifying issues pertinent to civil society.
- Governments and local authorities need to acknowledge their role as a donor to civil society and be part of the dialogue to improve donor coordination through projects such as DECIM (Donor Exchange Coordination and Information Mechanism).
- Donors need to ensure that rules on project proposals and financing support and encourage the sustainability of local CSOs – and that they reflect the nature and size of the grants.

- An enabling legal and fiscal framework for CSOs is necessary to complement donors' efforts to support civil society in the beneficiary countries.
- A well-advertised website should go public as a resource and exchange mechanism for all those dealing with civil society development.
- There should be a programme and timetable for extending coordination on the ground, which has begun in Croatia, to Potential Candidate countries.
- DECIM should become a presence on the ground through supporting help desks and linking this in turn with other coordinating mechanisms such as donor forums.
- Partnership between the European Commission and other donors in running the civil society facility for Potential Candidates is desirable, whilst extending this instrument to other countries in the region.

#### **Workshop 4: Putting the Partnership Principle into Practice**

- CSOs deplore the fact that there was no reaction from governments to the Ljubljana declaration, the Zadar guidelines, and to other proposals for the improvement of partnership between CSOs and state institutions.
- CSOs are aware of the complexity of the third sector and its relations with governments and that different forms of

relations, including partnership, have to be developed, fitting advocacy and service delivery CSOs.

- CSOs realize that the current economic crisis and its effects on society require intense engagement of all actors in society. Based on the principle of solidarity, CSOs are ready to assume their part of responsibility for overcoming the consequences of the crisis for people. These consequences are to a large degree predictable (such as unemployment, rising poverty, social exclusion, limitations on human rights, etc.) and may result in social, regional, racial, and human rights tensions.
- To be able to take timely and preventive measures, CSOs propose to governments to establish an Emergency Fund to enable CSOs to make their contribution. The Fund would contribute to job creation within the 3<sup>rd</sup> sector and should be financed by contributions from national governments and international donors, and would represent just a small percentage of the funds devoted to supporting private businesses.
- This joint action of governments and CSOs would be a form of efficient partnership that could be the basis for its continuation once the crisis is over.
- The Commission should remind the partner governments of their obligation to report on the partnership and lay down guidelines on how to apply consultation and

partnership at all stages in the conception, implementation, and evaluation of strategies and programmes.

- The obligation that these programmes “should contain an overview of the consultation of the relevant socio-economic partners and, where relevant, civil society representatives” requires that the process should be monitored and accountable.
- Inclusion of provisions for dialogue with civil society on all levels in the bilateral legally binding documents (e.g. Partnership and Cooperation Agreements or Stability and Association Agreements).
- Inclusion of civil society representatives in the monitoring committees for regional operations for IPA.
- For cross-border programmes involving EU member states, implementation of the partnership principle in the EU structural funds (article 11 of the basic regulation).
- Framework agreements or compacts are the most modern instrument available to organize relations between the civil society and national governments, and they exist in about 10 EU Member States or regions. They are an open, flexible instrument, adaptable to different settings and geographical levels. They are useful to clarify shared values and the respective roles of the governmental and non-governmental spheres.

- Such agreements take a holistic approach to information, consultation, and funding. They are not legally binding but have the support of governments and parliaments and provide for the handling and review of complaints.

### **Workshop 5: Ensuring Equal Access to Funds and Reaching out to Small Organizations at the Local Level**

- There has to be support for the basic need for education, capacity building and core funding to allow CSO structures to develop. This means taking some risks by backing people and structures on a longer-term basis, not just for one-off projects.
- The Ljubljana declaration acknowledges that management of EU funds requires capacity building and training in the national and regional administration as much as among CSOs. There are real benefits to encouraging partnerships by training people from the two sectors together.
- Equality of access to EU funds can only be achieved to a certain extent. Active involvement of other donors as co-financiers is a precondition for small CSOs lacking the capacity for independent management of European grants or projects. Their needs should be covered either by more flexible national funding sources or by having them become part of a larger group.

- The most creative CSOs can lose out on opportunities for training and access to funds. Each country should have a proactive help-desk that should be well-advertised through NGO portals. Such a help-desk should support initiatives to pool funds from different sources. Local level is largely outside the circle of information about the EU and other donors, yet local CSOs represent 90 % in the region and any viable civil society which should respect a certain balance between urban and rural areas. For practical reasons, it is easier to involve both citizens and associations at the local level to stimulate a debate on the needs civil society should address. There are various techniques, such as participatory budgeting, citizens' juries, and town hall meetings.

A variety of approaches is recommended:

- Start-up funds from venture philanthropists and foundations should be invested in organizations capable of incubating new local projects and helping social entrepreneurs to succeed in creating viable organizations.
- Another solution is to support a hub organization that can redistribute small grants at a local level to develop volunteering and social capital. Such a hub organization

may be a civil society development foundation or an NGO support structure with regional branches.

- Encouraging local resources and donors can be done by creating community foundations. This may involve reviewing laws on foundations and introducing tax benefits to enhance individual and corporate philanthropy.
- There is a tendency for CSOs in capital cities to focus only on national governments and parliaments and miss out on the importance of community development in remote areas and on relations with local authorities.
- Charters or “compacts” between CSOs and local or city governments can encourage partnership and transparency.

### **Workshop 6: Workshop on EU Programme DG Enlargement: Civil Society Facility**

- The Commission Communication of 6 November 2007 stated that in order to encourage social transformation in the Western Balkans, a new financing facility under IPA would be established to develop Western Balkan civil society organizations.
- Civil society should push the donors constantly, because they are the ones who lack coordination the most. The EU aims to create a help-desk managed by the countries and

the EU itself to provide service to civil society – the activities would depend on the needs. The aim of the EU is to create an advisory commission for each country.

- Donor coordination has to be cheap; hardly anyone wants to do it, because it is considered a burden. It has to have added value. That is why the EU is trying to set the scene with local representatives. It also has to be representative of all involved. The EU can help by establishing rules that both the donor and civil society should be involved.
- Coordinators must be appointed by civil society. The civil society also has to always be up to date on what has been done in terms of coordination. There has to be an agreement among the donors in terms of reporting issues (financial reports etc.) and also on who will do what – the EU rules are here to stay and will only become stricter with time, so things cannot be made easier, but also more understandable to civil society and to those who apply the rules.
- Donor coordination without listening to the client civil society organization means that the latter cannot complete its mission successfully. If we remain at the level of dissemination, then we cannot develop coordination, it is only a precondition for cooperation and partnership. We should all be working on developing and achieving

common goals and towards prosperity for our nations, the EU, etc.

### **Workshop 7: Workshop on the Multiplier Effect of the Ljubljana Congress**

- Every participant should go to the press and inform them of the Congress and its conclusions. Merely a website is of no use, all modern tools (such as blogging etc.) should be used to reach the younger generation. Politicians will be directly confronted tomorrow for the first time, the press will be present. The discussion must be confrontational in order to get the press' attention – the press is a very important multiplier. Even if we have different legal systems and development levels, tomorrow's session is unique: the questions must be precise so that the answers will have to be precise.
- There are many European initiatives active in the region, but they do not know of one another. She would suggest to the European Movement to find synergies with other similar European initiatives.
- The governments only put together declarations. The dissemination of information is a problem as well. Very few CSOs are informed of the continuation of the implementation process. The governments do not pay

enough attention to that. There are two ways to change that:

- Follow-up of the declaration: members of the European Movement in all countries should really inform people in their countries, not simply create mailing lists without checking if people have actually read their contents;
- EC delegations in the accession countries: governments in the Western Balkans listen more to those delegations than to their own citizens, so more action from those delegations would be very welcome. The governments should be forced to become more open and transparent.
- There is more than one Ljubljana declaration, which leads to confusion. Last year there were two Ljubljana declarations of organizations working with two parts of civil society without knowing about each other.
- Slovenian civil society has not been present enough. It should be the responsibility of local organizers to make sure that local CSOs are present; the interaction among various NGOs from the region should be thus enhanced.
- To have an impact on the government, it would be better to communicate with them through the Commission.

- Communication campaign as one of the possible activities – it would be a great idea to encourage public debate, to raise important issues with the citizens.
- The EC should also make ownership of this Congress; the Council of Ministers should be informed of the Congress. Various directorates of the Commission should be given a brochure.
- Regarding the Commission's ownership: regional governments should consider becoming owners of this Congress as well. Not only should each national government support its own national society, this should be taken to the next level. The partnership and ownership of the Member States and the countries of the Western Balkans should be taken into consideration.

We all need to work together, so that the same things will not be repeated again and again. It is important to organize more frequent meetings at the local level in order to put different topics on the agenda and to make local governments to sit down and discuss concrete questions with local CSOs.

## **DEBATE WITH EU AND NATIONAL LEADRES**

The third and final day of the Ljubljana Congress began with the meeting of the senior parliamentary guests with the President of the National Assembly Dr. Pavel Gantar.

The discussion with over 80 participants took place at the Large Hall of the National Assembly. The conference was opened by Pat Cox, President of the European Movement International and ex-president of the European Parliament.

The participants listened to a speech by Dr. Pavel Gantar, President of the National Assembly. In his speech he underlined that "the European Union is an historical project, which is based on the vision of a joined and democratic Europe, and the enlargement is one of the strongest tools of its policy. Past enlargements have proven to be successful in more than one aspect. They have strengthened the European Union and contributed to the strengthening of democracy, respect of human rights, and citizens' freedoms, establishing rule of law and key democratic institutions all around Europe." In light of accession of the civil society, President Gantar warned that "the European project cannot be successfully formed and realised without active citizens, without a strong and self-sustaining civil society, which represents the key component of democratic public life. A

developed and heterogeneous civil society is a necessary precondition of democratic development and at the same time its indicator and representative of the motive power of the European integration process and with this also accession to the European union of the accession countries.”

The introductory part was concluded by Zoran Janković, Mayor of the Municipality of Ljubljana, who welcomed the participants to “the most beautiful city in the world”.

An open debate with the presidents of the parliaments of the EU Candidate and Potential Candidate Countries and the mayors of the capitals of South-East European countries followed on the topic: CSOs’ Political Challenge Chart. The debate, which was broadcast live by TV Slovenija, was moderated by Oana Lungescu, European Affairs Correspondent for BBC World Service. After the debate there was a press conference in the Large Hall on Tomšičeva Street with the presidents and vice-presidents of the parliaments and their senior representatives.

The afternoon session began with the meeting of the presidents of governments and senior representatives of governments and a speech by the President of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia Borut Pahor.

The participants of the afternoon debate were Halid Genjac, President of the Commission for European Integration of the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Jani Makraduli, Vice-President of the Macedonian Assembly, Neritan Ceka, Deputy Speaker of the Albanian Parliament, and Neven Mimica, President of the European Integration Committee in Croatia.

Besides the representatives of civil society organizations, the presidents of parliaments and governments of the region, as well as mayors of its capitals, were invited to the Ljubljana Congress as well.

At the parliamentary level, participants of the discussion in the Slovenian Parliament on the third day of Congress were Neritan Ceka, President of the Parliament of the Republic of Albania, Jani Makraduli, Vice-President of the Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia, Jakup Krasniqi, President of the National Assembly of the Republic of Kosovo, Ranko Krivokapić, President of the National Assembly of the Republic of Montenegro, and Güldal Mumcu, Vice-President of the Parliament of the Republic of Turkey.

President of the National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia Dr. Pavel Gantar and President of the National Assembly of the

Republic of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić met for the first time and determined that there were no open questions between the two countries and that cooperation, especially economic, has been growing in the recent years. The President of the National Assembly Dr. Pavel Gantar underlined that Slovenia supports accelerated accession of Republic of Montenegro to Euroatlantic Integrations.

President Krivokapić underlined the close connection between the nations and good cooperation between the countries. He explained that the Republic of Montenegro is working hard for an accelerated accession to NATO as it wants to become a full member by 2011 or 2012. The membership in NATO is very important for the Republic of Montenegro because this part of the Balkans is still facing security threats. The Republic of Montenegro feels the consequences of the economic crisis and is planning on taking advantage of the crisis for the development of economy. This is why they intend to continue to invest a lot into tourism and infrastructure, which is, according to president Krivokapić, also a good opportunity for cooperation with Slovenian investors.

President Krivokapić also highlighted the original regional initiative Cetinje Parliamentary Forum, where Slovenia is

cooperating as an observer, and expressed expectations that Slovenia will continue to be closely involved with the initiative.

President of the National Assembly Dr. Pavel Gantar expressed his belief that politics is supposed to create a positive atmosphere in relations between countries, which will encourage economists, sportsmen and others to find possibilities for cooperation favourable to both countries.

President of the National Assembly of the Republic of Kosovo Jakup Krasniqi expressed gratitude for the support that Kosovo received from the Slovenian National Assembly and Slovenia in general on their path to independence. He underlined good relations between the two countries, which originate from the time of Yugoslavia and have recently intensified, especially in the fields of politics and economy. Since its declaration of independence, Kosovo has become an open, working society, justifying the recognition from Slovenia as well as from other members of the European Union. President Krasniqi expressed his wish for Kosovo to join Euroatlantic Integrations in the future, although this is a fairly lofty and distant objective. President of the National Assembly Dr. Gantar agreed that the relations between the two countries, which originate from the 80s, are good and strong. He underlined that the declaration of independence of the Republic of Kosovo was not only a realisation

of the historical trend of Kosovo, but also a contribution to the stability of the region.

The response of the representatives of national parliaments and governments was positive, and a clear political will to contribute to the development of civil society in their countries was demonstrated. This largely dispels the common misconception that only pressure for reforms in the process of accession to the EU can make the governments engage in constructive dialogue with civil society organizations.

## PHOTO GALLERY



Mayor of Ljubljana Zoran Janković speaks at the opening of Ljubljana Congress (photo: Željko Stevanić)



Opening of Ljubljana Congress, Ljubljana Castle (photo: Željko Stevanić)



President of European Movement Slovenia An Krumberger speaks at the opening of Ljubljana Congress (photo: Željko Stevanić)



President of the National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia Pavel Gantar speaks at the opening of Ljubljana Congress (photo: Željko Stevanić)



One of the workshops on the second day of the Ljubljana Congress (photo: Željko Stevanić)



Artist Miha Pogačnik, An Krumberger and Pat Cox on the reception on the second day of Ljubljana Congress (photo: Željko Stevanić)



Debate with the leaders on the third day of Ljubljana Congress in the National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia (photo: Željko Stevanić)



President of the National Assembly Pavel Gantar speaks on the last day of the Ljubljana Congress (photo: Željko Stevanić)



Prime Minister of the Republic of Slovenia speaks on the last day of the Ljubljana Congress (photo: Željko Stevanić)



Pictures with heads of delegations on the last day of the Ljubljana Congress (photo: Željko Stevanić)

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