

Organisers:



Latvian Presidency
of the Council of the
European Union



Sabiedrības integrācijas
fonds



Draft

Eiropas Kustība Latvijā
European Movement - Latvia

programme

NGO Forum - RIGA 2015

2-3 March 2015

Monday, 2 March 2015

Networking and workshop session, opening reception

Riga Art Space (Kungu iela 3, Rīga)

14:00	Registration and welcome coffee
14:30	Welcome speech by Ms. Ingvild Næss Stub , the State Secretary to the Norwegian Minister of EEA and EU Affairs (NO) Key note speech by Mr. Valdis Dombrovskis , Vice President of the European Commission (LV) Key note speech by Ms. Dace Melbārde , Minister of Culture of the Republic of Latvia (LV)
15:30	Experience and networking event Aim: to exchange best practice and needs within the thematic area linked with decision makers (vertical dialogue) or among organisations and citizens. To check required amendments to the Roadmap on Participation. <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Democracy, participatory democracy and sustainability of organised civil society2. Innovative tools and new approaches fostering direct citizen participation3. Human rights and non-discrimination (incl. gender, race and ethnicity, sexual orientation, religion, age, people with disability)4. Environment and sustainability5. Integration of people at risk of social exclusion or unemployment6. New approaches towards volunteerism, education and culture
17:30- 18:30	Reception , hosted by the Royal Norwegian Embassy

Tuesday, 3 March National Library, Mūkusalas iela 3, Rīga, Latvia	
9:00	Registration/morning coffee
9.30	Opening session at the Latvian National Library <i>Laimdota Straujuma, Prime Minister of Latvia (LV)</i> <i>Ingvild Næss Stub, the State Secretary to the Norwegian Minister of EEA and EU Affairs (NO);</i> <i>Henri Malosse, President of the EESC and the Co-chair of EESC Liaison Group (FR)</i> <i>Andris Rāviņš, Chairman of the Council of the Society Integration Foundation (LV)</i>
10.30	Civil society– yesterday, today and tomorrow <i>Prof. Marju Lauristin, co-organiser of the Baltic Way, Vice-president of the S&D group of the European Parliament (EE)</i> <i>Prof. Roberts Kīlis, Associate professor at Stockholm School of Economics in Riga (LV)</i>
11:00	Coffee/Tea
11.30	Presentations/panel discussion – the role of civil society in decision making from its own perspective – national and EU level Moderator: <i>Lolita Čigāne, Chairperson of the European Affairs Committee of the Parliament of the Republic of Latvia (LV)</i> Presentations: - <i>Ionut Eugen Sibian, Director of the Civil Society Development Foundation (RO)</i> - <i>Inese Voika, founder and adviser of DELNA - the Latvian branch of Transparency International (LV)</i> - <i>Karl Henrik Sivesind, Senior Researcher at the Institute for Social Research Norway (NO)</i> - <i>Hagen Berndt, Senior expert and advisor (DE)</i>
13:00	Lunch
14:00	Parallel working sessions co-chaired by representatives from CSOs and EU Institutions. Please choose one of the three following. Aim: Agree on final content of the Roadmap on Participation in EU issues. Written proposals drafted prior to the forum and linked to concrete initiatives/tools/action etc. shall be the basis of the discussion: Parallel Session 1: Challenges and future perspectives for participation of civil society (organisations and citizens) – a Road Map design for involvement at a national level (with special attention to EU related decision making)

		<p>Co- chairs: <i>Rihards Kols, Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister of Latvia (LV);</i> <i>Alexandrina Najmowicz, Director of the European Civic Forum (FR)</i></p> <p>Introduction: <i>Bernd Hüttemann, Vice President of the European Movement International, Visiting Lecturer University of Passau</i> <i>Jean Monnet Chair for European Studies (DE)</i> <i>Vanessa Duarte de Sousa, Association In Loco (PT)</i> <i>Alisa Ruban, International Secretary of the Democratic Alliance, Communications manager at Stronger Together (UA)</i></p> <p>Parallel Session 2: Challenges and future perspectives for participation of civil society (organisations and citizens) - a Road Map design for involvement at EU level</p> <p>Co- chairs: <i>Danuta Hübner, Chair of Constitutional Affairs Committee of the European Parliament (tbc) (PL);</i> <i>Diogo Pinto, Secretary General of the European Movement International (PT/BE)</i></p> <p>Introduction: <i>Luca Jahier, President of Group III (Various Interests) of the European Economic and Social Committee (IT)</i> <i>Gerald Häfner, Founder and Board member, Democracy International e.V. (DE)</i> <i>Michel Mercadié, Member of the Management Committee of the Social Platform (FR)</i></p> <p>Parallel Session 3: Challenges and future perspectives for dialogue and sharing best practice between civil society (organisations and citizens)</p> <p>Co- chairs: <i>Gabriella Civico, Director at European Volunteer Centre- CEV (UK/BE)</i> <i>Dilyana Slavova, President of the EESC NAT Section, Section for Agriculture, Rural Development and the Environment (BG)</i></p> <p>Introduction: <i>Johannes Werner Pichler, Profesor at the University of Graz (AT)</i> <i>Assya Kavrakova, Director, European Citizen Action Service (ECAS) (BG/ BE)</i></p>
15:30		Coffee/Tea
16:00		Continuation of parallel working sessions, incl. conclusions and an agreement on main future actions / the Road Map on Participation.
17:00		Presentations of working sessions results/panel discussion

	17:40	<p>Closing remarks and outlook <i>Conny Reuter, Co-chair of the EESC Liaison Group, Secretary General of Solidar (DE/BE)</i> <i>Zanda Kalniņa-Lukaševica Parliamentary State Secretary of the Ministry of the Foreign Affairs (LV)</i></p>	
	18:00	<p>Closing of the conference Reception hosted by the EESC Liaison Group</p>	

5. Information on the organisers

Society Integration Foundation

SIF strongly believes that there is need to promote involvement of civil society in the design of policy documents and decision making on different levels, including European, as well as to increase society's understanding about various forms of participation. The information share on achieved results within ongoing support programmes for NGOs, exchange of good practices created in partnerships and networking would help to strengthen the role of NGOs and to push the process of more active civil participation and reform at European and national level.

Significant share of the EEA Grants 2009-2014 is allocated to support the civil society in Latvia. More than 10.3 million Euros are earmarked for programme „NGO Fund”. In order to strengthen civil society development and to provide support to social justice, democracy and sustainable development, there are three areas of support:

- support to daily activities of NGOs in the following areas: democracy and participatory democracy; human rights, including minorities rights; good governance and transparency; combating racism, xenophobia and discrimination; environment and sustainable development; and gender equality and gender-based violence;
- support to NGO activities aimed at the social sector, including provision of welfare and basic services, local and regional NGO initiatives to reduce social inequalities and to promote social inclusion and gender-equality, including support to children and youth at risk;
- Development of a cohesive society – intercultural dialogue and integration of national minorities, including strengthening of human rights and national identity, awareness-raising informative and educational activities on citizenship issues and language training promoting democratic participation, prevention of discrimination, promotion of tolerance and acquisition of citizenship.

To increase the capacity of the NGO sector in Latvia, as well as to perform a situation analysis about the development tendencies of the NGO sector, the pre-defined project „Support to sustainable civil society development and improvement of the monitoring system in Latvia” is under implementation.

The European Movement – Latvia

The European Movement – Latvia (EML) is one of the leading NGOs in political sphere in Latvia. EML is member of the International European Movement and founding member of the Latvian Civic Alliance, the Latvian Platform for Development Cooperation.

The EML has played a key role in setting up the Government and NGO Cooperation Memorandum and the Declaration of the Parliament (Saeima) on the Importance of Civil Society and the cooperation with NGOs. The EML is elected member of the Government and NGO Cooperation Council and of the Parliament and NGO Cooperation Forum organisers team. The president of the European Movement – Latvia, Andris Gobiņš is bureau member of Group III of the European Economic and Social Committee.

Partners:



