

Program Overview

Wednesday, September 16th

18:30 Welcome to the Civil Society Forum

Opening evening with welcome addresses, mingling, music, food and drinks.

20:30 Warm-up discussion

The culture of engagement - meet the artists that really care

Thursday, September 17th

09:00 The crucial questions

- ▶ Legends of civil society – tension of democracy
- ▶ Who speaks for the citizen in Central and Eastern Europe in 2009?

break break break break break break break break break

11:15 Harnessed and unharnessed energies

- ▶ Time for a new approach to NGOs?
- ▶ Civic engagement: Sights&Sounds

lunch lunch lunch lunch lunch lunch lunch lunch

14:15 The post accession-agenda - initial conversation about the unfinished democracy business and the economic crisis

15:00 6 parallel discussions

- ▶ Inspiring active citizens - mission possible?
- ▶ Citizens and politics
- ▶ NGOs and the state - a relationship of clients, partners or opponents?
- ▶ Keeping up with the changing world - how can we guarantee the viability of civil society?
- ▶ Civil society, old media, and cyberspace - too much talk, but no communication?
- ▶ Business and civil society - growing divide or getting closer? What is the potential of expanding partnership for needed social change and reforms.

17:00 YourSpace – time for participants' proposed topics and ad-hoc discussions

19:30 Dinner at SAS Carlton Hotel

21:30 After diner discussion

Two decades of Civil Society in Central and Eastern Europe

- how the Czechs and Slovaks made it to Europe without borders

Friday, September 18th

09:00 Show and Tell of the Social Innovation Camp CEE

break break break break break break break break break

11:00 Discussing the future - sharing observations, ideas and strategies

Closing remarks and Lunch

Wednesday 16th September

Welcome reception at the Cvernovka Factory!

This first evening of the forum will offer you some mingling and music, as well as food and drinks from catering firms with social missions.

Program points during the evening:

Welcome words from Heike MacKerron, Chair of the Board of the CEE Trust.

► Opening of the Civil Society Forum contest exhibition

Approximately 100 entries were submitted to the Forum contest from young activists, students and journalists from CEE. The best were selected by the contest jury – and will form the Civil Society Forum exhibition. The winners were invited to participate in the Forum, and the best three submissions were awarded with scholarships for professional development ideas.

► What is the Social Innovation Camp CEE?

Brief introduction to what will be going in the Social Innovation Camp CEE throughout the Civil Society Forum.

Warm up discussion:

The culture of engagement – meet the artists that really care

Many activities in the civil society sphere are conducted through arts and culture. Many artists use their artistic expressions to convey a message to create change or connect with citizens around specific values or actions. How can the links with arts and culture be further developed in our work for active and vibrant CEE civil societies? This will be a conversation with artists-activists who contribute in their special way to bring about social change – accompanied by video clips and music.

DISCUSSION
LEADER



Tomek Kitiliński

is author of the books “Love and Democracy” and “The Stranger Is within Ourselves”. He is a queer activist and teacher of philosophy at Maria Curie-Skłodowska University, Lublin.

Thursday 17th September

9.00 The crucial questions

As the Forum opens the floor to discussion – the start will be a slightly critical (often self-critical) analysis of the situation of civic society. It will be an attempt to reflect generally on the nature of democracy and the ambivalent role of intermediary institutions. We would like to focus on the issue of “lonely citizens.” The session will be composed of two strongly interlinked parts.

▶ Legends of civic society – the tension of democracy

In this part we want to touch on two fundamental versions of the legends of civic society. In the first perspective, intermediaries (organizations, corporations, trade unions, political parties, etc.) are perceived primarily as organized interest groups. Those groups should be largely restricted, if not abolished completely. They generate inequalities. They are not gateways but rather the gatekeepers of peoples’ interests and for that reason they pose a threat to the very nature of democracy. Thus, the role of the state is to ensure its citizens equal “access” to democracy. In the second perspective, various intermediary groups (primarily associations) constitute the very essence of democracy. They represent a vehicle for civic cooperation and self- organization. They can counterbalance the state and they actually protect individuals from the all-too-powerful, omnipotent state. They create the foundations for a system of dispersed power. These two historical and intellectual traditions are still strongly present and what is more, they are competing with each other. This tension has also been a significant presence over the last 20 years of transformation in Central and Eastern Europe.

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Aleksander Smolar

is a political scientist, commentator and the President of the Management Board of the Stefan Batory Foundation. He has previously served as advisor to two Polish prime ministers.



vse spremembe so odvisne od nas

► Who speaks for the citizen in Central and Eastern Europe in 2009?

In this part we want to focus on the issue of “lonely citizens,” the voices and interests of whom are no longer represented properly by various intermediary institutions (social partners, political parties, mass media but also NGOs). We want to invite all to reflect on the functions as well as limitations of these institutions, and thus also on the lack of traditional mechanisms of social dialogue and efficiency of a corporate model. We will also give some thought to the following issues: to what extent are NGOs themselves a part of the solution and a part of the problem? What new possibilities of engagement and civic participation arise in connection with that?

We will invite all to a discussion on traditional channels of representation, to what extent have they been sufficient over the last 20 years and to what extent is they correct these days? How can we make them more open and less distant from individuals? During the discussion we also intend to cope with a question concerning a model of representative democracy and debate whether it has worked well over the last 20 years in Central and Eastern Europe. We also want to reflect on whether democratization will ever be completed and the challenges connected with that. Therefore, we invite all to look together for answers to very big, yet important, questions.

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Darina Malová

is a political scientist and Professor at the Comenius University in Bratislava, publishing and focusing on many areas relating to transition countries, institution building and governance in CEE.



Milla Mineva

is an Assistant Professor of Sociology of Culture at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski," and focuses on research into popular and consumer culture, visual studies and national identity.



Sławomir Siwakowski

is a sociologist and political commentator and is the founder and Editor-in-Chief of Krytyka Polityczna magazine and publishing house - finding a strategy for rebuilding a left-wing political formation in Poland is one of his main areas of interest.



Paweł Smoczyński

is a journalist and Deputy Foreign Editor at the leading Polish news magazine Polityka, with educational background in egyptology and general linguistics.

DISCUSSION
LEADER



Simon Delakorda

is a devoted e-participation supporter who has been engaged in the internet and the third sector for years. He is currently the Managing Director of the Institute for Electronic Participation in Ljubljana (INePA)

DISCUSSION
LEADER

11.15 Harnessed and unharnessed energies

To what extent has the NGO model fulfilled its intended mission – and what is the need and place for formally registered associations in the future. We will later tap into the uncharted territory of individual, ad-hoc and informal groups’ energies as the driving force of the civil society of the future. The session will be divided into two parts, organically connected.

► Time for a new approach to NGOs?

Over the last two decades, NGOs have drawn their appeal from a series of features: predictability, institutional reaction, the possibility of a track record, responsibility, representativeness. Are these features still needed? What is the profile of the perfect civil society actor?

In order to answer these questions, we have to analyze what exactly the “old NGOs” have accomplished, which would not otherwise have been possible. We will look into their staffing patterns, their funding structures and their birth mechanism. The top-down approach (from donors and facilitators to grass-root NGOs) was arguably the best way of activating civil society, but was it the only one?

Professionalism comes with maturity, but with maturity comes mannerism too. What if we discover that some NGOs have slid from “know why” to “know how”? What if we – or others we know of - do projects just because we know how to do it, just to keep ourselves in business? Let’s look for a way back that can reconnect the CSOs to the people whose interest they claim to represent. If there is a space for us to reinvent ourselves, let’s explore it – speakers and participants together



Nilda Bullain

is Executive Director of the European Center for Not-for-Profit Law (ECNL) in Budapest and has extensive experience of human rights work as well as assisting a parliamentary committee.



Mike Edwards

is a consultant with experience gained from many years working at Ford and in international development. He used to be a Member of the Board of the CEE Trust and has written several books.



Codru Vrabie

is passionate about the transparency of public administration and is involved, in numerous ways online and in real life, in addressing issues of access to information.

Idei pentru viitor

Civic engagement: Sights&Sounds

And what if the NGO model becomes obsolete? Who is there to instigate and channel civic energies? Is virtual space as good a medium for interaction as a physical meeting space? We will also take a leap into the future of civil society.² through a combination of filmed materials and live testimonies from the public about how energy can be harnessed, combined and put to work for the benefit of the people.

DISCUSSION
LEADER



Ioana Aradani

is the Executive Director of the Center for Independent Journalism in Bucharest. She is dedicated to a freer media and real citizens' voices being heard.

DISCUSSION
LEADER



George Ene

is the General Secretary of the Romanian Press Club. His academic background in philosophy helps him to ask the right questions when it comes to the "why" and "how" of society.

13.00 LUNCH

14.15 What's on the post-accession agenda of CEE societies

This conversation is intended to introduce the broader political and economic context shaping our societies. Findings of recent comparative policy research carried out in ten post-communist countries will be presented, formulating a couple of open questions: What is the next five years' policy agenda for the ten new member states from CEE 20 years after the start of the transition, 10 years after the start of the EU accession negotiations and five years (two and a half for Bulgaria and Romania) since the EU accession? Is the transition over and the EU accession agenda fully accomplished - is there still "unfinished business" to be done? In addition we will share some observations and reflection on the development of the economic crisis in Central and Eastern Europe, advancing some hypotheses as to its effect on civil society infrastructure, governmental policy and philanthropy in general.

Peter Goliaš

is an economic analyst at the Bratislava based think-tank Institute for Economic and Social Reforms (INEKO) with interest in reforms of health care and pension system as well as the fight against populism, he used to be an economic journalist.



Assya Kavrakova

is Director of the European Policies and Civic Participation Program, Open Society Institute Sofia and has long been involved in transparency and policy work in Bulgaria.



Rayna Gavrilova

is historian by vocation, anthropologist by passion and steward of a major philanthropic effort – the Trust for Civil Society in Central and Eastern Europe.



DISCUSSION
LEADER

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15.00 The dynamics of today's civil society

Join one of 6 round table discussions focusing on crucial relationships and new forms of interaction among actors in the public sphere.

► Inspiring Active Citizens: Mission Possible?

Is civic activism shrinking or reshaping? What triggers or blocks the involvement of individual citizens in public life? How do we reach out and mobilize others? Do we rely on the involvement of the active, or do we work to engage passive citizens? What can make civic engagement more effective? What aims do people care enough about to get involved? Join this round table to address these questions and many more, share your experiences and debate with a diverse audience about the state of civic engagement in our region. Our role as organizations is shaping the way citizens engage in public life, and the variety of tools and strategies we use to achieve our mission.

DISCUSSION
LEADER



Cristina Rigman

is Executive Director of Pro Vobis, the National Volunteer Center in Romania. She is writing a PhD in sociology and has for many years been a dedicated volunteer.

► Citizens and Politics

Are the ballot box and perfectly organized campaigns conducted by well-established NGOs the only ways for citizens to take part in national political decisions? What about spontaneous groups, the weird ideas circulating in the blogosphere or YouTube, the twittering Iranians, or the Iraqi bloggers, the online petitions and the Facebook groups? Are we heading towards a global citizens' republic? Are we turning the Earth into a global parliament with several billion MPs? In 20 years time, people born into the computer boom will be middle-aged, English-speaking global citizens. Will they completely change the way politics works? Is this change already happening, or will our old attitudes to voting prevail? Will the world split into two groups – millions of activists and billions of passive citizens? Join me at the Citizens and Politics round table to discuss all these questions and to try and find a few answers.

*Všetky zmeny
zavíši od nás*

DISCUSSION
LEADER



Julian Popov

currently based in the UK, is a journalist and advisor with extensive experience gained from projects in Eastern Europe. He is also actively engaged in the New Bulgarian University and the Bulgarian School of Politics.

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► NGOs and the state – clients, partners or opponents?

What is changing in NGO-government relations in the post-accession period? What is the reality of NGO-government partnerships in the diverse countries of this region? Are NGOs contractual implementers or drivers for change and improvement? What consequences does this have for the service and advocacy functions of NGOs? Is critical feedback welcomed or punished? How do we maintain independent voices while sustaining and developing funding from government sources? Where is the space for supplementing each other? Where do service functions overlap? Where do clashes emerge? What is the cross-sector experience of coalitions? What needs to change on both sides? The purpose of this session is to discuss how fundamental EU principles of NGO-government relations translate into practice in our countries and to outline the key challenges and opportunities for effective interaction of NGOs with governments at different levels.

DISCUSSION
LEADER



Dušan Ondrušek

is a trained psychologist and has been involved in peacework, conflict transformation and partnerships in among others the Middle East, Western Balkans and Central Asia.

► Keeping up with the changing world: how can we guarantee the viability of civil society?

What are NGOs – citizen based interest actors or subsidized project businesses? Who do they serve? How can we keep civic identity and values under the pressure of a contract-driven culture? How should we deal with change? Where are the new leaders? What triggers solidarity and joint action beyond projects? What makes networks and coalitions effective? How can we expand space and resources for joint strategic thinking and acting? Pavlina Kalousova will lead this conversation aiming to reach beyond the discussion of financial sustainability and looking at other issues crucial in ensuring the long term viability of civil society organizations.

DISCUSSION
LEADER



Pavlina Kalousova

is Executive Director of the Czech Donors Forum and has been involved in discussions around philanthropic giving for years, in addition she teaches non-profit management at Prague Business University.

Všechny změny závisí na nás

► Civil society, old media, and cyberspace: Too much talk, but no communication?

Is it easier to have a mission than to have a message? As platforms for communication expand, are messages getting lost? Why is it so hard for NGOs to formulate effective messages and speak the same language as their audience? Is it premature to announce the death of “old media” and how can they be of use to civil society? Are virtual societies and networks the new civic space and engine? Is unlimited, uncensored and unedited communication a curse or a blessing? Is virtual communication killing messages and blurring responsibility? Throw down all your ideas on Table # 5 and together let’s find a way to turn NGO talk into effective communication!

DISCUSSION
LEADER



Petko Georgiev

is a journalist and TV producer, as well as communications and media expert having worked with media development and media relations for CS organizations and public institutions for years.

► Business and civil society – growing divide or getting closer? What is the potential for expanding partnerships for necessary social change and reforms?

Involving representatives from both sides, this session will address the following questions: What can we do to break this outdated binary thinking about the two sectors? Is the business of business merely business or should it be involved in achieving social change? What motivates business and civil society actors to cooperate? What are some good examples of successful partnerships? Why do they work? Are we looking for the lowest common denominator or are there other types of projects that can benefit both partners? What is not working and why? What should be done by both parties to create workable partnerships? What is the place of CSR in all this? Is it just another form of self-promotion and is that OK, or do companies have good intentions? We will use the input from a pre-conference survey to put provocative questions on the table and share the experience and opinions of people from all over the CEE region.

DISCUSSION
LEADER



Eva Varga

is Enterprise Development Director for NESsT venture fund. She has a wealth of experience in micro-finance and management consultancy and is based in Budapest.

17.00 YourSpace

This **time and space is for discussions** proposed and designed by you. Suggestions posted online will be mixed with ad-hoc conversations stemming from the first day of the forum, general networking and having a drink with old friends.

19.30 DINNER at Radisson BLU Carlton Hotel

21.30 After dinner discussion:

▶ Two decades of Civil Society in Central and Eastern Europe - how the Czechs and Slovaks made it to Europe without borders

This evening session will look back at twenty years of democratic reform, modernization and Europeanization in the Czech and Slovak Republics. Starting with the Velvet Revolution, civil society played a critical role in Czechoslovakia, bolstered initial reforms in the joint state, and took diverging paths after the split into two independent countries. Two decades of civil society development, similarities and differences between the Czech Republic and Slovakia, and the role of NGOs for broader social and political change will be central topics for discussion. Pavol Demes, an internationally known expert from the German Marshall Fund of the United States will facilitate this debate with two Czech and two Slovak civil society leaders.

Pavol Demes

is Director for Central and Eastern Europe at the German Marshall Fund of the United States, since 1989 engaged in civil society and policy work in the region, serving also some years as Minister of International Relations.



DISCUSSION
LEADER

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Friday 18th September

9.00 Show and Tell of the SIC CEE

The **Social Innovation Camp Central and Eastern Europe (SICCEE)** will be an intense two days where developers, designers, and social innovators compete in self-organized teams to build web-based tools for social impact. Each team takes an early-stage idea that tackles a social problem, and turns it into a social start-up complete with working software, a community platform, and a business model.

SICCEE is not about improving NGOs but about people power, using the web to re-organize the world from the grassroots up. It's about using the capacity of the internet to help individuals connect and collaborate to change things that are important in completely new ways. Since April 2008 there have been three Social Innovation Camps in the UK and

SICCEE is an ambitious experiment that aims to amplify the energy of Social Innovation Camp to catalyze new approaches to social change in the Central and Eastern Europe region as well.

The **Show and Tell** session is where you will get to see – and give your own opinion – about it all! An expert jury and forum participants will vote for the winning ideas that demonstrate the greatest potential to create real change.

Dan McQuillan

his winding path to web-based social innovation started with a PhD in experimental particle physics and includes mental health advocacy, multilingual websites for asylum seekers and heading Amnesty International's digital communications, before he co-founded SI Camp in 2007.



FACILITATOR

Ideas for the future
Idee za prihodnost
Tomysty na przyszlosc
Nápady pro budoucnost
Idei pentru viitor
Nápady pro budoucnost

11.00 What about the next 20 years?

Our world is changing faster than anybody expected 20 years ago we lived under communist regimes. There was no free media and free and fair elections were only a dream. 15 years ago we didn't really know cell phones and emails. 10 years ago there was no google. 5 years ago there were no social websites. Now we can not only vote, but - thanks to new technologies - very easily gather, find supporters and have direct influence on social and political life. Never before have communication and participation been as easy as they are now. How do we use it? How can we use it better? How can we anticipate new trends? What will be the shape of relationships between various actors within the public sphere. What tools are there that we may use and how effective can they be? How will all this shape the future of our work?

This session will cast a quick glance at some of the drivers of change established in the UK and reflect upon what this means from a CEE perspective. Then we will jump into a practical discussion engaging participants. Let's talk about possible scenarios and the strategies we should form for meeting the future!

Anna
Giza-Poleszczuk

is a sociologist and Professor at Warsaw University and President of the Board of The Unit for Social Innovation and Research Shipyard, where she tries to approach science and “social practice”.



Ivan Krastev

is a political scientist and Chairman of the Board of the Centre for Liberal Strategies in Sofia. He also has an extensive record of writing and speaking on Eastern Europe and politics



Vida Ogorelec Wagner

studied architecture and became introduced to environmental activism in San Francisco – when returning to Slovenia, she established Umanotera – the Slovenian Foundation for Sustainable Development.



Julian Popov

currently based in the UK, is a journalist and advisor with extensive experience gained from projects in Eastern Europe. He is also actively engaged in the New Bulgarian University and the Bulgarian School of Politics.



Igor Janke

is a Polish journalist working with all kinds of media – print press, radio, tv and the internet – as founder of the bloggers platform salon24.pl, although he once upon a time had plans to be a theatre critic.



DISCUSSION
LEADER

12.45 Closing comments and lunch



STRENGTHENING CIVIL SOCIETY. SUPPORTING IDEAS THAT MATTER.



The Trust for Civil Society in Central & Eastern Europe (CEE Trust) was launched in January 2001 as an independent public charity organization with endowment support from a group of private grant-making foundations including Atlantic Philanthropies, Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, Ford Foundation, German Marshall Fund of the United States, Open Society Institute, and Rockefeller Brothers. The Trust was created as a mechanism for helping the transition from donor assisted to independent, active and viable organizations and networks, working for the public good. It will distribute 75 million USD until the end of 2012 as financial support to initiatives and organizations.

The mission of the CEE Trust is to support the long term sustainable development of civil society and non-governmental organizations in seven countries in Central and Eastern Europe: Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia.

The definition of civil society of the CEE Trust is based on a broader understanding, including registered non-profit non-governmental organizations (NGOs), but also other formally and informally organized citizens, groups, coalitions, movements, representatives of the media and educational institutions, working for the advancement of the public good. The CEE Trust's task is to encourage them to become more efficient and sustainable, to expand their constituencies and consider the future of their work in times when global, European, and local concerns define the environment.

Made in CEE