



ANNUAL REPORT

CIVIL SOCIETY DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION

2018



**Fundația pentru
Dezvoltarea
Societății
Civile**

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ABOUT THE CIVIL SOCIETY DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION

Civil Society Development Foundation is an “organisation for organizations”, sharing the belief that the very development of non-governmental organizations is an indicator of the progress of communities and citizens.

FDSC's growth has been certainly connected to the changing needs of the Romanian non-governmental organizations (NGOs): in the first half of the 1990s, we catered to the immediate need for funding of the emerging national NGO sector, through grant programs, while later on we gradually added new programs and services designed to meet specific needs identified in every development stage of the non-governmental sector.

Reaching out to other categories of stakeholders and target groups, which had become more and more relevant for the overall development of the civil society, FDSC is currently pursuing its mission by providing services not only to NGOs, but also to public administration, the business sector, journalists, academia.

Our grant programs, information services, consultancy and training, as well as advocacy, coalition and platform building program are interconnected and with a mutual added valued. That is what makes us different and comprehensive in our approach on the development of the civil society.

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GRANTS MANAGEMENT

The Swiss-Romanian Cooperation Program

The Swiss-Romanian Cooperation Program is part of the non-reimbursable aid offered by the Swiss Federal Council to 13 EU Member States that joined from 2004 to 2013. Switzerland's support is an expression of solidarity with the new EU Member States and lays the foundation for stable economic and political cooperation. between these states.

The Swiss-Romanian Cooperation Program aims to:

- contribute to reducing the economic and social disparities between Romania and other more advanced countries of the enlarged European Union and
- within Romania, to reduce the economic and social disparities between dynamic urban centers and the structurally weaker peripheral regions.



The program is managed by the Swiss Intermediate Body, a consortium formed by KEK-CDC Consultants, the Civil Society Development Foundation and the Romanian Partnership Foundation.

Through the two Thematic Funds, a total of 141 projects with a total value of CHF 23 million were implemented. In 2018, all funded projects were completed. Of these, 96 were monitored by FDSC.

The support granted by FDSC to the executive agencies consisted of the permanent consultancy, both on technical aspects of the implementation, as well as financial ones. Also, during the entire administration period, FDSC has supported the executive agencies to achieve the objectives set out in the projects and to achieve sustainable results.

The Civic Innovation Fund

The Civic Innovation Fund (CIF) is a financing program addressed to non-governmental organizations, developed by FDSC in 2011, in response to the situation and needs of civil society in Romania.

CIF wants to be a catalyst for the potential of citizens to transform and develop their communities. The objective of the program is to support innovative civic initiatives and actions of non-governmental organizations in Romania, empowering and increasing the active participation of citizens to contribute to community development.

From the beginning, CIF was supported exclusively by private donors, such as Trust for Civil Society in Central and Eastern Europe or donors from Romania, represented in particular by the business sector through socially responsible companies such as Enel Romania, OMV PETROM and Raiffeisen Bank. Starting with 2015, the program runs in partnership with the Romanian-American Foundation, which joins FDSC in an effort to encourage communities to shape their own models of civic development and involvement. The program is now addressed especially to small organizations which work on grass and the budget of which does not exceed \$60,000 / year.

During the 2018 call for projects of the Civic Innovation Fund, a number of 11 projects were financed, as follows:

Civic Innovation component

Within the Civic Innovation component, the 2018 call, 9 initiatives were proposed for financing, the total value of the financing for this component being 523,265 lei.

Civic mobilization component for improved access to energy

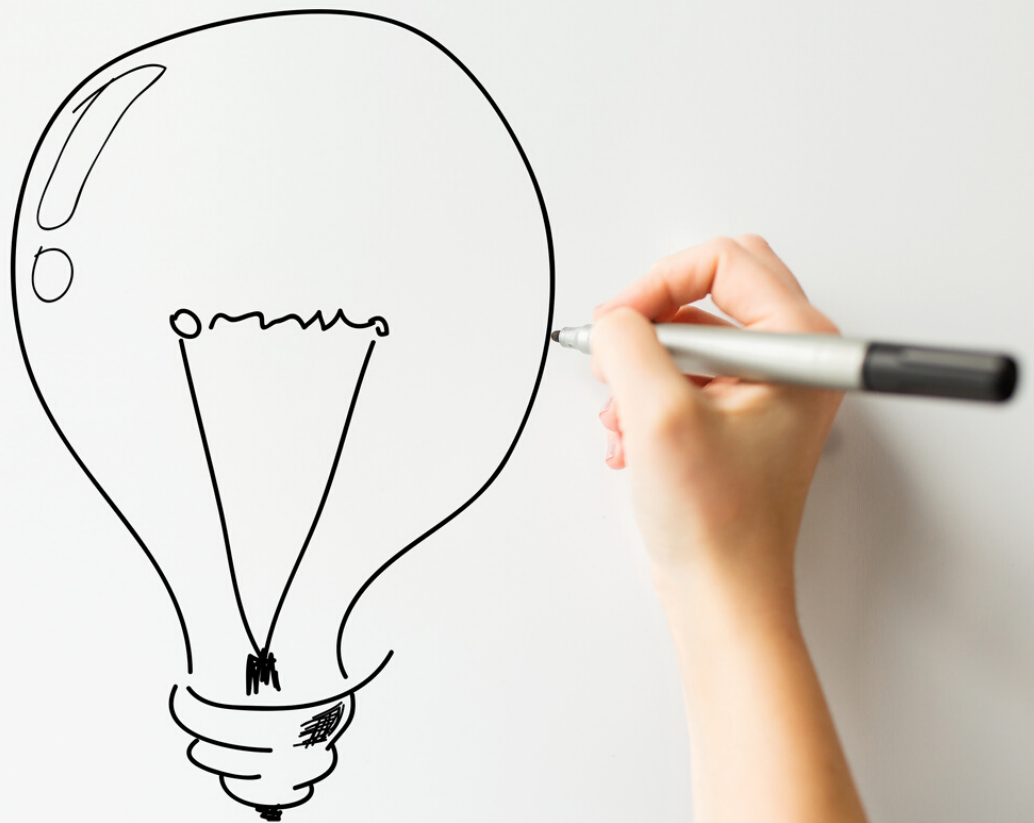
Two initiatives to improve the access to energy are financed with 120,000 lei through the component CIF - Civic mobilization in view of the improved access to energy, realized in partnership with Enel Romania.

The Civic Innovation Fund

Also, for 2018 we had:

- 169 letters of intent received
- 37 full proposals
- 40+ training participants
- 11 projects funded (9 civic and 2 energy)
- Partners: RAF, Enel Romania and Ursus
- 640,000+ RON grant in the form of financing

The projects were implemented in more than 35 cities and communes : București, Videle (Teleorman), Gaești (Dâmbovița), Târgu Mureș (Mureș), Victoria (Brașov), Fundulea (Călărași), Brașov, Ploiești, Galați, Făgăraș, Pașcani, Dor Marunt (Călărași), Belciugatele (Călărași), Cernavodă, Mangalia (Constanța), Slobozia, Țândărei (Ialomița), Slănic Prahova, Urlați (Prahova) Pitești, Focșani, Constanța, Dobroești, Caraș-Severin, Ilfov, Cluj, Bihor, Brașov, Argeș, Vâlcea, Dolj, Gorj, Mehedinți, Caraș-Severin, Hunedoara și Republica Moldova.



Civic Innovation Fund - support for local community organisations

Implementation period: Nov 2017 - Apr 2019

Within the Civic Innovation Fund, with the financial support of OMV PETROM, we supported the non-governmental organizations included in their network of community resource centers. 8 organizations benefited from non-reimbursable financing for the implementation of initiatives for the development of local communities in which the CERCs operate (Schela, Galați County; Suplacu de Barcău, Bihor County; Mănești, Dâmbovița County; Zemeș, Bacău County; Bustuchin, Gorj County; Telega, Prahova County; Talpa, Teleorman County, Boldești Scăeni, Prahova County). As part of the organizational development program, a meeting to facilitate experiences was organized in conjunction with a 3-day Introductory Entrepreneurship session aimed at supporting organizations in choosing social business ideas and experimenting with tools for developing a business plan, with an emphasis on the budgeting side.

The summary of the results recorded by the funded projects includes:

- Arrangement and endowment of the Day Center of the Elders in Suplacu de Barcău, with a weekly program of activities for the elderly in the community; 20 elderly people who did not move received support at home;
- Elaboration of materials for capitalizing on local traditions: booklet History of Bustuchin traditions - local Bustuchin traditions, local stories, legends about elements / spaces / objectives of local identity; the Elders Advice brochure, including local recipes, life stories collected from the elderly in Matca and Suplacu;
- Supporting the use and carrying out of activities under the umbrella of the Bălân Cultural Center from Poiana Bustuchin, including the development of the Amaradia culture festival, held on the occasion of Bustuchin commune days;
- Traditional costumes (20) were purchased for the members of the Brâul Dance Group, participating and awarded in numerous competitions;
- 25 volunteers involved in arranging the space necessary to carry out activities with children in Telega;
- 53 children (grade VIII) from Mănești have received additional support (preparation for national assessments in mathematics and Romanian) through weekly working sessions and counselling;
- 23 children (grade VIII) from Schela benefited from a mathematics support program;
- 50 students were involved in the after-school type support program in Boldești Scăeni, including remedial education in Romanian and mathematical language and literature, meal insurance, as well as involvement in weekly intercultural activities;
- 22 persons qualified in the profession of Commercial Worker, 2 persons completely covering from their own resources the costs associated with the course organized in Zemeș;

Civic Innovation Fund - support for local community organisations

- 23 teachers from Telega participated in the training session for parents' education for the benefit of children;
- 12 people participated in a training in non-formal methods of working and cultural promotion, focused on developing skills for better management of cultural activities in Bustuchin;
- 60 students from Telega were involved in the "Summer School" program (5 days) and another 60 children from Boldești participated in activities carried out within the Holiday Club (1 month);
- 38 parents participated in parenting workshops organized in Telega; counselling sessions with parents were also organized in Boldești;

Each resource center carried out community information activities regarding their actions: public meeting or cultural cafe in Bustuchin, meetings with volunteers in Suplacu, participation in the Local Council meeting in Telega, CERC day in Boldești, meeting with potential employers in Zemeș, etc.



ÎN STARE DE BINE

În stare de bine was launched in April 2018 with the support of Kaufland Romania and is one of the largest private financing programs for non-governmental organizations in Romania. The program supports the activity of NGOs by providing non-reimbursable financing, as well as through activities to increase organizational capacity and collaboration between them. In this way, it aims to increase the impact and sustainability of the actions of associations and foundations, for the benefit of the communities in which they operate.

The objective of the program for 2018 is to increase the quality of life of the inhabitants of the rural and urban communities, by supporting the cultural, sporting initiatives and activities to promote a healthy lifestyle.

The program approach was based on three complementary directions, as follows:

1. Funding for projects carried out by NGOs in the fields of culture, sport and healthy living.
2. Support for the capacity development of organizations in areas such as communication, project management, financial management, project writing, organizational development, etc.
3. Community Development of NGOs supported by Kaufland - a space for interaction, inspiration, mutual learning and exchange of best practices between organizations that have benefited or benefit from the support of Kaufland Romania.

**ÎN STARE
DE BINE**
Program pentru ONG-uri
susținut de Kaufland

NGO sector consultation on ACF preparation

In light of the importance of feedback from the civil society stakeholders in shaping the Active Citizens Fund in Romania, a consultation process took place during summer of 2018.

An online consultation was carried out from 13 of June 2018 until 29 of June 2018. Also a stakeholder's consultation was jointly organised on July 3, 2018 by the Financial Mechanism Office (FMO) - the Brussels based secretariat of the EEA and Norway Grants - and the Fund Operator for the Active Citizens Fund in Romania. The consultation gathered 38 representatives of Romanian non-governmental organizations, working in the areas of support of the Active Citizens Fund. The majority of the participants represented networks/platforms/coalitions of NGOs with members from all over the country, with diverse experience of operations (organizations that have long and relatively short timeline of operations), with different size according to their annual budget and personnel hired, working with diverse target groups (e.g. vulnerable groups, people with disabilities, Roma and other minorities as applicable, youth, volunteers). Small NGOs, working in remote areas were present, as well as other donors working on capacity building and sustainability of the civil society sector.

The stakeholder consultation provided the space for participants to interact, share ideas, debate and agree on main civil society concerns and expectations related to the program as well as to identify and reflect on the ways to address the challenges in the country to obtain impact through the ACF. The conclusions from the working groups broadly validated the challenges identified by the Consortium and the proposed outcomes of the Programme.



CAPACITY BUILDING

Technical Assistance for Joint National Advocacy



FDSC has continued to assist the 3 NGOs consortia (counting more than 12 NGOs) running projects funded by the Roma Inclusion Fund/ Romanian-Swiss Cooperation program in 138 rural settlements in Romania. While the consortia projects have developed successful community based interventions in areas such as education, health, social assistance and housing for vulnerable people particularly Roma population, FDSC assistance has concentrated on strengthening the consortia capacities in organizing effective advocacy campaigns. Two initiatives were piloted by the consortia, namely the promotion of legislative changes meant to improve the way in which the School-after-School program is organized and funded at national level, and capitalization and promotion of an integrated approach for providing services for vulnerable Roma people or groups, either at the family level or in the community. FDSC's main role was to transfer knowhow and coach the consortia members in their efforts of influencing the relevant public decision-makers.

CoopNet

The network of facilitators in developing
associative agricultural structures



ROMANIAN - AMERICAN
FOUNDATION

A gift from the American people

FDSC joined a consortium led by Foundation Civitas for Civil Society in a project meant to create a community of practices and knowledge on how to promote associative structures as socio-economic development vehicles in agricultural rural communities from Romania. The community reached about 40 members (local action groups and agricultural cooperatives) in 2018. FDSC is preparing for an increased role in 2019, has and thus have participated in the activities led by the other partners that organized several rounds of trainings and networks meetings on aspects related to the design of the Local Action Groups calls for proposals for associative measures in their communities or technical aspects included in the Leaders Programme/ National Program for Rural Development.

CoopNet is implemented with the support of the Romanian-American Foundation.

NGO Academy Workshops

In the series of events included in the ERSTE Foundation NGO Academy, Regional Program 2017/2018, FDSC organized 2 workshops addressed to non-governmental organizations in Romania and Republic of Moldova:

- Financial planning (2 days, 22 participants) - focused on developing the participants' abilities to contribute to a healthy financial management of their own organization. The workshop addressed: essential elements regarding the integration of financial planning in the whole internal financial system, specific roles of the team for efficient financial planning, budgeting (at project level, financing from multiple sources, organization), tools & mechanisms of monitoring and control (takes the build) and use of cash flow projections at project and consolidated level)
- Basic elements of the financial management of the project (2 days, 20 participants) - facilitating the exchange of knowledge and experiences regarding the distinction between financial management and the activity of accounting organization, the role of the financial managers in the project, building a realistic budget and efficient monitoring tools that allow real-time tracking of the budget execution on projects, financial reporting and integration of the activity on projects throughout the organizational structure.

Teachers' training for developing life skills for kids

Through Graffiti PR, for OMV Petrom, during April - August 2018, within the project "Liga Elevilor Meseriasi - LEM", we conducted a 3-stage customized intervention for 24 teachers from the Professional and Technical Education in Buzău for better developing life skills amongst their students. The methodology of developing life skills involves a different approach, based on the activation and involvement of the students, their active participation in their own learning process, as well as on interaction and a horizontal relationship at the expense of a vertical one. During the intervention, we made a first session of 1 day in Buzău in which we introduced the teachers in the process of developing life skills, followed by a period of mentoring in which the teachers were motivated to apply the first step in the implementation of the development cycle of life skills - identifying learning needs. After this period we organized a 6-day training session in which we proposed that the teachers should understand as much as possible the concept of developing life skills: to succeed in describing an ability, to apply different methods by which to apply developing life skills, finding ways to evaluate the development of life skills.

Impact Baia Mare



Baia Mare - Youth Capital of Romania 2018 - 2019 was an important opportunity to document the effects that a structured program focused on civic involvement and mobilization has on young people and the community. For this purpose, the FDSC has conducted for the Federation of Non-Governmental Organizations of Youth in Maramureş an impact analysis of the Baia Mare program - Youth Capital of Romania 2018 - 2019, in order to have a better understanding of the motivation of active involvement of young people as well as to understand the main positive effects of the program at the level of young people, organizations and the community of Baia Mare.

ONG21. NGO participation in the education for sustainable development public policy.



Starting with April 2018, the Foundation for the Civil Society Development Foundation (partner) together with the REPER21 Association (partnership leader) implements the project "ONG21. NGO participation in the education policy for sustainable development ", co-financed from the European Social Fund through the Operational Program Administrative Capacity (code SIPOCA / SMIS2014 262/112066).

During the year 2018 a series of essential activities have been started and completed. The FDSC team was directly involved in organizing training courses "Lobby Specialist" for developing the skills of 80 representatives of 80 NGOs to effectively formulate and promote, through lobbying and advocacy activities, alternative proposals for public policies in the field of Education for Sustainable Development.

Period of implementation of the project: from 03/04/2018 to 02/08/2019

Project value: 999 552.18 lei, of which the eligible non-reimbursable value from the ESF 822 673.27 lei, the eligible non-reimbursable value from the national budget 156 887.87 lei, co-financing partners 19 991.04 lei.

Priority axis 1. - Public administration and efficient judicial system

Specific objective of the program 1.1 - Development and introduction of common systems and standards in public administration that optimize the decision-making processes oriented to citizens and the business environment in accordance with SCAP.

Prof21



In April 2018, we started the implementation of the Prof21 project - Developing the skills of teachers and school managers for an attractive and inclusive school, funded by the Human Capital Operational Program 2014-2020, together with our partners REPER21 Association, World Vision Romania Foundation and Teach for Romania Association. The Prof21 intervention makes a significant contribution to the development of the competences of the teachers from 23 schools from Braşov, Mureş, Vaslui, Călăraşi, Ialomiţa, Prahova, Dolj, Olt, Vâlcea and Hunedoara counties to implement innovative educational programs to improve the quality of education and to equitable access to education for children with a high degree of educational risk. In 2018, the FDSC team re-accredited the Life Skills training program in the context of sustainable development (20 transferable credits) and with REPER21 trainers we organized 14 courses (10 training days each, of which 3 online through the Prof 21 Platform, focused on the topic of education for sustainable development) for 253 teachers from partner schools. Each of the teachers was subsequently involved in a structured mentoring program that continues until 2020.

ODYO

Until April 2018, the FDSC team together with its partners from Slovenia (CNVOS) and Belgium (ENNA) has completed the implementation of the project "Organizational Development of Youth Organizations", briefly ODYO, co-financed by the Erasmus + program of the European Commission. Through this project we set out to make the youth organizations more accountable to the interested parties and better prepared to provide quality services for young people with reduced opportunities by improving their organizational capacity. Through this project we developed and piloted a series of organizational development tools meant to help youth organizations become better performing. The realized tools have increased the awareness of more than 150 organizations of / for youth on the need to evaluate internally the needs of developing the capacities of their organizations and to facilitate the access to adapted tools and tools that can be used in the process. All the tools are available in an interactive format in English, Slovenian and Romanian on the project platform Odyo Toolkit.



INFORMATION SERVICES

Știri.org is a news portal for and about NGOs and the NGO sector. It contains news about activities and initiatives of Romanian NGOs, useful information for the NGO sector in Romania (funding, research, legislation etc.), and also useful information on NGOs and the NGO sector for the public and private sector, as well as for the mass media. The website publishes more than 50 news weekly and has a network of over 500 NGOs submitting press releases and other news for publishing. The public consists of around 16,000 visitors weekly, while its associated FB page has an average reach of over 20,000 people weekly.

(<https://www.facebook.com/stiri.org/> and <https://www.stiri.org/>)



#DeCeONG? Campaign

We ran a Facebook campaign on the positive effects NGOs can bring about between 1 November - 15 December 2018. The aim of the campaign was to raise the profile of NGOs among the general public, with a special focus on middle-age women in small and medium cities in Romania, so that they learn about the contribution NGOs bring to the communities they work in and understand the healthy role NGOs play in a democratic society.

The campaign was called #DeCeONG (#WhyNGOs, in translation) and consisted of 3 types of posts: (1) informative posts, communicating on what NGOs are, what roles do they play, how many NGOs are in Romania and the number of NGOs in rural areas examples on what exactly NGOs do in those fields - education, animal protection, culture, sport, environment, health, minorities, women, children, elderly people; (2) thematic posts, covering all major domains NGOs are most active in Romania and providing 10th of December. FDSC was the focal point for this action day for Romania and integrated this into the #DeCeONG campaign for a greater and mutual impact.

ONGFest Baia Mare

A local edition of ONGFest (the National Festival of NGOs in Romania), took place between 18-19 August and was organised by FONT – the Youth Federation of NGOs in Maramureş, under Baia Mare Youth Capital of Romania programme, with know-how support from FDSC. 36 NGOs attended the centrally located outdoor event in Piaţa Libertăţii. More information on the event and program is available [here](#).



UniverCity Break

ONGFest, the National Festival of NGOs in Romania, had a dedicated version for university students in spring 2018, under a series of meetings called UniverCity Break. The concept was built as having university students take trips (city breaks) into the civic field (civic breaks we called them), thus getting familiarised with the non-profit sector in general and NGOs in particular, and being encouraged to get involved in the activities of NGOs.

Over 170 students attended this UniverCity Break series, which took place at the Faculty of Letters at the University of Bucharest and the Bucharest Academy of Economic Studies. The informative, interactive and informal discussions touched on topics such as the role and importance of NGOs in society, fields of activity that NGOs cover, sources of funding, as well as ways in which young people can become volunteers, interns or even employees of a non-governmental organization.

**ADVOCACY AND
PUBLIC POLICY**

Who is the beneficial owner for an NGO?

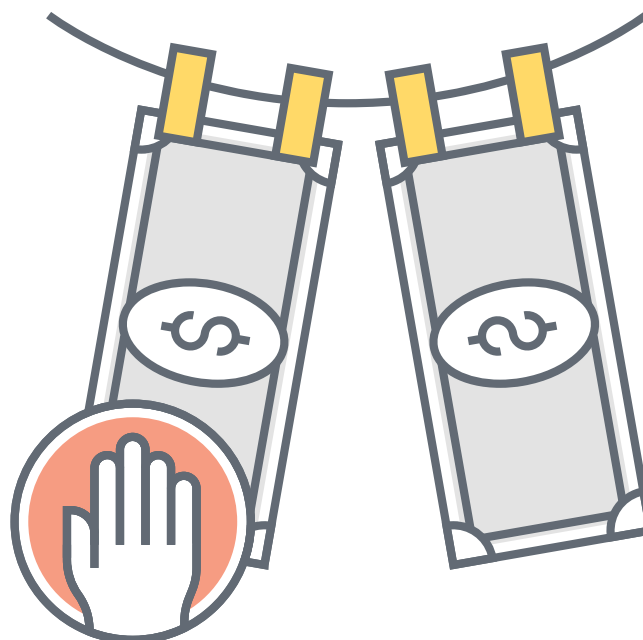
Advocacy campaign on clarifying the provisions on beneficial owners and obliged entities applicable for NGOs in the context of the adoption of the draft law transposing the 4th EU Anti Money Laundering Directive

FDSC mobilized and facilitated the efforts of more than 100 NGOs throughout the entire legislative process of this law. It was a remarkable collaborative effort and FDSC was proud to serve as aggregator and expertise provider, informing constantly all interested NGOs upon the progress made throughout the different phases of the campaign. Main achievements that may be reported are:

- A public debate organized by the Ministry of Justice on FDSC's demand;
- Two open letters and press releases signed by dozens of NGOs, voicing the NGO sector concerns, at national level;
- Bringing the issue to the attention of European level stakeholders when Civil Society Europe together with the European Foundation Centre and Dafne Donors Network raised their concerns on the draft law with the European Commission, in an open letter.
- Participated to 10 parliamentary and governmental meetings
- Drafted and submitted an Amicus Curiae with the Constitutional Court, expressing the arguments for rejecting the version of the law adopted by the Parliament in October 2018.

The end of 2018 came with the Constitutional Court decision that partially accepted the criticisms on the text of the law as adopted. The draft law would be back in the Parliament and the campaign would continue in 2019.

The timeline activities for 2018 along with all supporting documents are available [here](#).



Advocating against dangerous changes in civil society's operating legislation

The Romanian Senate, the first of the two Parliamentary chambers, adopted on November 21st, 2017, following an emergency procedure, a legislative proposal on amendments to Ordinance 26/2000 regarding associations and foundations. In the name of transparency, the text of the proposal stipulated that any NGO must publish twice a year in the Official Gazette a statement of incomes and expenditures, that includes separately for each income, the person or activity that generated that income and its value. The sanction of not publishing this statement is the dissolution of the association or foundation.

Such crooked legal construct was considered dangerous for the functioning of the entirety of the non-governmental sector and throughout 2018, together with dozens of national and international civil society partners, we managed to coordinate our efforts to stop such legislation from coming into force. By the year's end, the proposal had drawn criticism from the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights, the Council of Europe INGO Conference, the Venice Commission and the OSCE/ODIHR.

RO2019 Civil Society Platform

RO2019 Civil society platform was a non-governmental initiative of Europuls - the Centre of European Expertise and FDSC, launched in 2016 to support preparations for the Romanian Presidency of the EU Council during the first half of 2019. Politically neutral, RO2019 aimed to coagulate the efforts of Romanian civil society from within the country and abroad for a successful transition of Romania's most important maturity test since joining the European Union in 2007.

RO2019 Civil Society Platform

In 2018 we continued to build on our activities and initiatives started in 2016 and 2017, strengthening the capacity of our member organizations and working groups, as well as communicating and representing the interests of the platform towards key stakeholders and the media. We represented the NGO sector perspectives at various events organised by the Romanian Government or the Representation of the EC in Romania on the coming Romanian Presidency of the EU Council and coordinated our work and initiatives with our NGO counterparts in countries having the Presidency of the EU Council in 2018 - Bulgaria and Austria, or coming right after Romania - Finland and Croatia. Moreover, we launched two briefs covering either thematic or cross-cutting issues relevant to the topic, namely: "Social Economy in the Presidency of the EU Council programmes. Perspectives for the Romanian Presidency of the EU Council", reviewing the Presidencies of the EU Council that addressed social economy over time and highlights the most important approaches and decisions for social economy during these presidencies. Regarding the forthcoming Romanian Presidency of the EU Council, the document issues a series of six recommendations to be taken into consideration by the Romanian Government and mentions a series of social economy related events to take place during the respective period.

The document is available [here](#).

"European values in the context of the Romanian Presidency of the EU Council", on the importance and challenges that European values face in the EU. Europe of values is one of the four priority themes of the Romanian Presidency of the EU Council. The document which is available [here](#) covers the topic of European values in the European construction and proposes a series of recommendations from civil society.

R
O
2019

Platforma de sprijin

Președinția Română
a Consiliului UE

RESEARCH

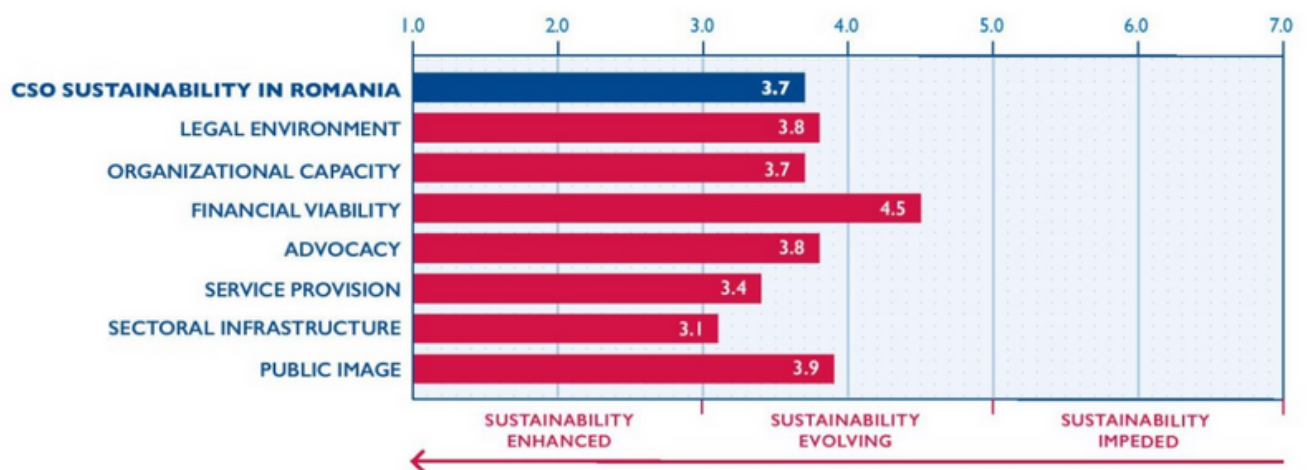
USAID CSO's Index

2018 Civil Society Organization Sustainability Index, 22nd Edition

ROMANIA

Capital: Bucharest
Population: 21,457,116
GDP per capita (PPP): \$24,600
Human Development Index: Very High (0.811)
Freedom in the World: Free (84/100)

OVERALL CSO SUSTAINABILITY: 3.7



The Civil Society Organizations Sustainability Index (CSOSI) has been used since 1997 to assess the sustainability of the CSO sector. The Index has expanded considerably since its inception - it went from covering 18 countries in the Europe and Eurasia Region, to covering over 60 countries in different regions around the world. By using standard indicators and collecting data each year, the CSOSI enables users to track developments and identify trends in the CSO sector over time while allowing for cross-country and cross-region comparison.

FDSC continued the tradition of developing the annual sustainability index for the Romanian civil society sector, in the framework of the USAID CSO Sustainability Index. Thus, in October 2018 we launched the 21st edition of the index, in the presence of the US Embassy in Bucharest, the Romanian representatives of non-governmental organizations and the media.

**FDSC IN
INTERNATIONAL
BODIES**

FDSC representative in the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC)



Ionut Sibian, the Executive Director of FDSC is member in the following bodies of EESC: member of the Social Economy Category, SOC Section (Social, Citizenship), and a Bureau member of the REX section (External Relations).

During 2018 he was appointed as Rapporteur for the opinion of the EESC requested by the European Commission on Visa Information System (VIS SOC/604) and - Visa code revision (SOC/582).

He was also appointed as President of the study groups on 3 important works of the Committee: Economic and social cohesion and European integration of the Western Balkans (REX/497), Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA III) (REX/507) and Social economy enterprises' contribution to a more cohesive and democratic Europe (INT/875).

He also contributed to other opinions as member of the study groups for: Women in the Western Balkans (REX/502) and Justice, Rights and Values Fund (SOC/599). According to the recommendations included in the opinion on the Justice, Rights and Values Fund, this is a much-needed instrument for the promotion of EU values, fundamental rights, democracy, the rule of law, and in support of a vibrant and diverse civil society. Overall funding should be increased to EUR 1.4 billion, and innovative funding tools should be used to reinforce civil society participation and capacity. 50% of the different strands should be earmarked for civil society organizations, and funding for litigation in support of civil society organizations defending fundamental rights be supported. Synergies should be found with programmes supporting media freedom.

FDSC Member of the Expert Council on NGO Law

Simona Constantinescu, Director of Development and Advocacy of the FDSC, will serve from 2018-2021 as a member of the Expert Council on NGO Law. This is part of the CoE INGO Conference - the conference of international non-governmental organizations, the fourth pillar of the Council of Europe.

The Council of Europe's work benefits extensively from contacts and co-operation with the dynamic elements of society, as represented by NGOs. One of the main challenges currently facing the Organization is to strengthen NGOs and civil society and to develop participatory democracy on a pan-European basis.

The Expert Council carries out thematic and country studies on specific aspects of NGO legislation and its implementation that seem to pose problems of conformity with international standards, notably the European Convention on Human Rights and the Recommendation (2007)14 on the legal status of NGOs in Europe. Its work covers the 47 member countries of the Council of Europe and Belarus.

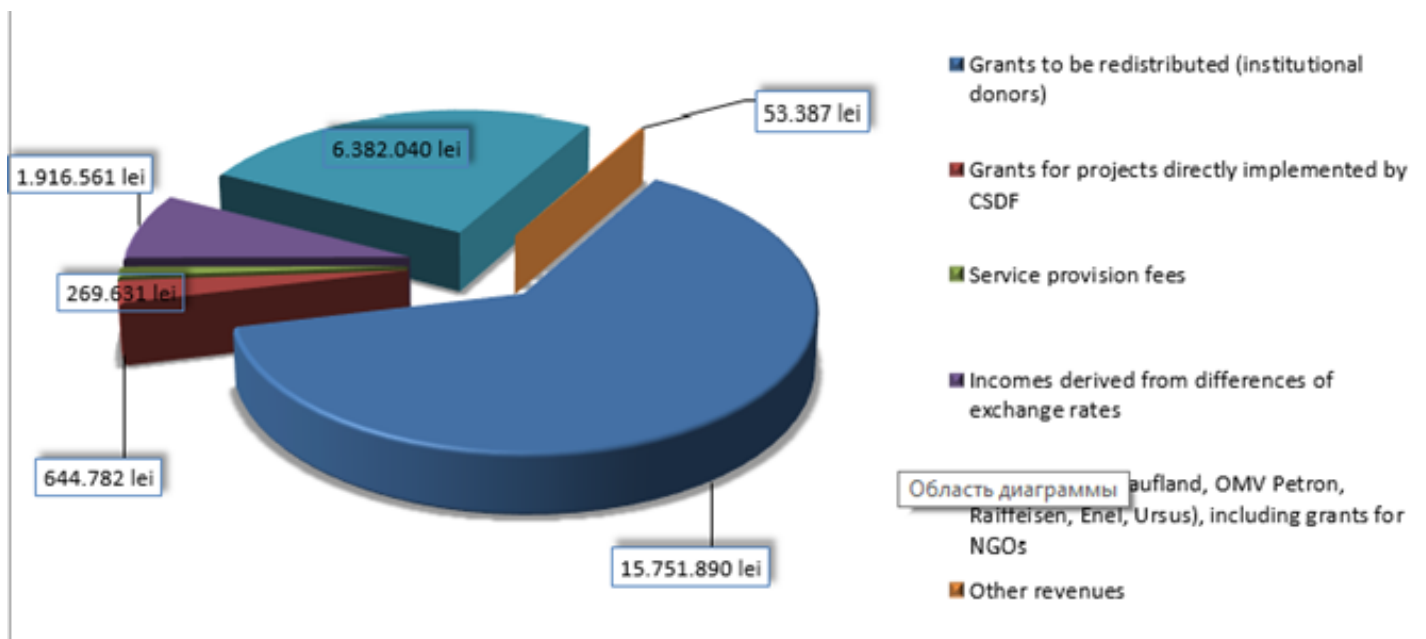
It was created in January 2008 by the Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe with the aim of creating an enabling environment for NGOs through examining national NGO legislation and its implementation and providing advice on how to bring national law and practice into line with Council of Europe standards and European good practice.

European Civic Forum

As board members of the European Civic Forum, a European network of over 100 organizations, we took an active role in the MEGA Make Europe Great for All Campaign, the European Civic Days or Civic Space Watch platform. On 29 and 30 May the annual European Civic Days conference entitled "Citizenship – Participation – Policies: Building Europe from Grassroots Up!" took place in Sofia, Bulgaria.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial Report



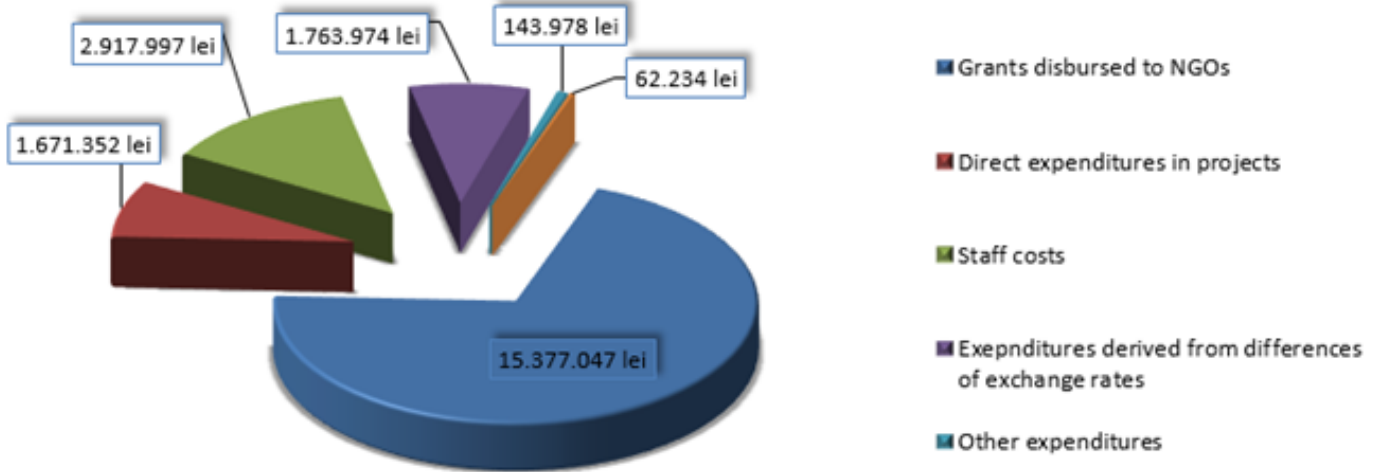
Main financial figures for 2018 (incomes, expenditures, net income)

	Amount	
Incomes 2018:	25.018.290,00 lei	5.376.231,00 €
Expenditures 2018:	21.936.583,00 lei	4.713.997,00 €
Net result (surplus) 2018:	3.081.707,00 lei	662.234,00 €

2018 Incomes

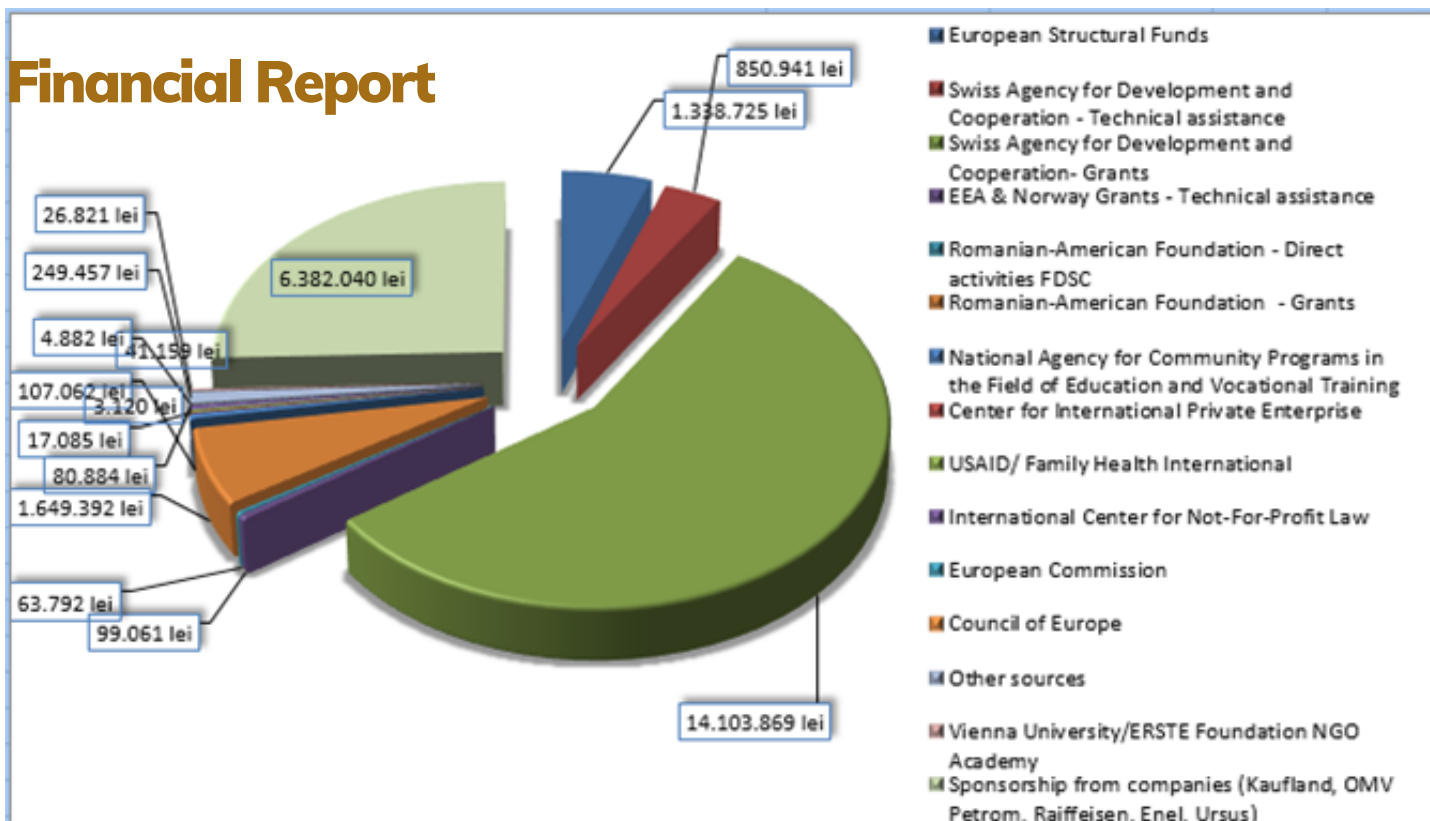
Types of income	Amount		% in the total income
	lei	€	
Grants to be redistributed (institutional donors)	15.751.890,16 lei	3.384.956,00 €	62,96%
Grants for projects directly implemented by CSDF	644.781,65 lei	138.558,00 €	2,58%
Service provision fees	269.630,92 lei	57.942,00 €	1,08%
Incomes derived from differences of exchange rates	1.916.560,61 lei	411.854,00 €	7,66%
Sponsorships (Kaufland, OMV Petron, Raiffeisen, Enel, Ursus), including grants for NGOs	6.382.040,00 lei	1.371.449,00 €	25,51%
Other revenues	53.386,66 lei	11.472,00 €	0,21%
<i>The conversion lei to euro was made using the Romanian National Bank average exchange rate for 2018 :</i>		4,6535 lei	
	- lei	- €	

Financial Report



2018 Expenditures			
Types of expenditures	Amount		% from total expenditures
	lei	€	
Grants disbursed to NGOs	15.377.047,37 lei	3.304.405,00 €	70,10%
Direct expenditures in projects	1.671.352,36 lei	359.160,00 €	7,62%
Staff costs	2.917.997,00 lei	627.054,00 €	13,30%
Expenditures derived from differences of exchange rates	1.763.974,12 lei	379.064,00 €	8,04%
Other expenditures	143.977,76 lei	30.940,00 €	0,66%
Administrative costs (utilities, communication, maintenance of premises and working infrastructure etc)	62.234,39 lei	13.374,00 €	0,28%
<i>The conversion lei to euro was made using the Romanian National Bank average exchange rate for 2018 :</i>		<i>4,6535 lei</i>	
	- lei	- €	

Financial Report



Main donors 2018

Main donors 2018	Amounts		% in total income
European Structural Funds	1.338.725,04 lei	287.681,00 €	5,35%
Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation - Technical assistance	850.940,78 lei	182.860,00 €	3,40%
Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation- Grants	14.103.868,92 lei	3.030.809,00 €	56,37%
EEA & Norway Grants - Technical assistance	99.061,20 lei	21.287,00 €	0,40%
Romanian-American Foundation - Direct activities FDSC	63.791,52 lei	13.708,00 €	0,25%
Romanian-American Foundation - Grants	1.649.391,75 lei	354.441,00 €	6,59%
National Agency for Community Programs in the Field of Education and Vocational Training	107.062,33 lei	23.007,00 €	0,43%
Center for International Private Enterprise	17.084,87 lei	3.671,00 €	0,07%
USAID/ Family Health International	41.159,24 lei	8.845,00 €	0,16%
International Center for Not-For-Profit Law	80.884,14 lei	17.381,00 €	0,32%
European Commission	3.120,23 lei	671,00 €	0,01%
Council of Europe	4.882,46 lei	1.049,00 €	0,02%
Other sources	249.457,01 lei	53.608,00 €	1,00%
Vienna University/ERSTE Foundation NGO Academy	26.820,51 lei	5.764,00 €	0,11%
Sponsorship from companies (Kaufland, OMV Petrom, Raiffeisen, Enel, Ursus)	6.382.040,00 lei	1.371.449,00 €	25,51%
<i>The conversion Romanian currency (lei) to euro was made using the Romanian National Bank average exchange rate for 2018 :</i>		4,6535 lei	
	- lei	- €	

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