

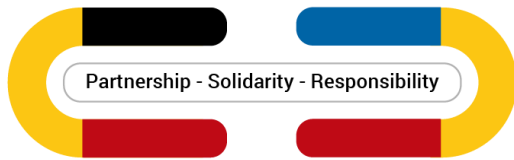
# Decentralized Cooperation Belgium - Romania

4<sup>th</sup> Forum October 25-27, 2013 Leuven

## Fostering local governance between Romania and Flanders, Wallonia, Brussels

### Conclusions of the 4<sup>th</sup> Forum on Decentralized Cooperation Belgium – Romania

- Since there was no structural financing for the Forum, the organizers, being volunteer umbrella organizations, had to look themselves for sponsoring through authorities and private sponsors. This is a huge job for volunteers and without the help of the embassies impossible. An amount of € 20.000 is needed to cover the costs of a Forum without cost of accommodation to host the Forum.
- As in Arad, the support of a county, in this case Vlaams-Brabant, is essential. Getting the whole accommodation and support for free is important. There was also a perfect cooperation with the county of Vlaams-Brabant and her representatives responsible for the Forum.
- After having organized forums in 2006 (B), 2007 (Ro), 2010 (Ro), 2013 (B) a time span of 3 years between the forums is needed. Since we started the preparation of this Forum December 2012 it takes about 1 year of preparation. So we propose the next Forum for 2016 in Romania. During the Forum, Prahova county candidate to organize this 5<sup>th</sup> Forum in Romania.
- For the first time, during this Forum, we also included business and with success. As well the B2B meeting as the 'Business meets Authorities' meeting was a success. More and more we feel that also companies became sensitive for local, regional and national development in Romania and understand that also a good and working social framework is important. Also NGO's have to switch from non-profit to profit in order to achieve their goals since in principle they are working in the field of social economy.
- Referring to the former Forums, this year there was a lack of cooperation and participation of organizations of cities and villages from Romania. Since the initial set up of aid and cooperation 25 years ago exactly went through local councils, villages and communes, we have to think how this can be improved since those organizations have an important task towards their members for training and information supply regarding the conclusions of the Forum and preparing a next one.
- At the same time there was also a lack of mayors, aldermen, governors, deputies, county presidents of both countries. Meaning communes and counties missed the opportunity, strongly foreseen in the program of this Forum to meet, exchange and build new cooperation's for the future.
- Building out a civil society as a counter partner for policy makers and authorities still remains an important task. Voluntary work and engagement, target group organizations, etc. are the basis for local development and community care. We once again showed here with organizing this Forum the force and engagement of voluntary organizations ADR, OVR, PVR.
- We saw a lot of 'good practices' already working in Romania, mostly with B partners. This is the way to work on for the future. Only we should expect more interest and support from policy makers and authorities for those projects and further implementation. As a first step, a 'catalogue of good practices' will be created the coming months, accessible for everyone.



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- Both embassies play an important role in creating opportunities for NGO's to be updated and aware of opportunities. In the same time they are the go-between for contacts and cooperation's with all policy levels and authorities. This is working well for the moment and should be maximal exploited also in the future.
- In health care there is an urgent need for leadership and decisions. First line health care should be taken serious and strengthened. Multifunctional rural centers should be the standard of first line health care in Romania. Existing models have proven their importance. In the same time a good cooperation between different levels in health care as well as prevention should be fully promoted. A rationalization of the hospital network starting from the primary question "What's the benefit for the patient?" should be urgently realized. Good practices and ministry of health should find each other to further work this out.
- Regarding EU funds we feel that for most of the people, this matter is unclear, sometimes far from local reality, unclear who get benefit of it: inhabitants or companies and concerns, needs a lot of administrative work, and mostly asking a not insignificant own financial contribution. During this Forum we got more insights in these funds. There is a need for further studies and exploration of these funds. On the other hand, trainings on writing projects should be organized and looked for cooperation partners on applying for those projects. Here also business and authorities should meet NGO's.
- The 'ADR-TON Social Map' as a tool for community assessment can be a basic reflexing document in order to strengthen Ro-B partners cooperation locally but also identify new project to be set up in the future. On the other hand is this a source of important data useful for NGO's and policymakers.
- As some models of inter-local cooperation were discussed during this Forum, models of inter-local cooperation should be set up also in Romania and one can learn from each other. This will be necessary in order to face problems of waste management, water management, bigger infrastructures, health centers, etc.
- As a follow up of this Forum, all partners should try to set up bilateral cooperation's to further work out the conclusions of this Forum. We also propose a good monitoring and yearly evaluation of this in order to prepare already the next Forum.

Leuven, October 27, 2013.

For all further information regarding this forum: [www.fobero.eu](http://www.fobero.eu)



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