

## **CONCEPT OF ESTABLISHMENT AND ACTIVITY OF THE UKRAINIAN NETWORK OF THE DANUBE CIVIL SOCIETY FORUM**

**The Danube Civil Society Forum (DCSF)** is a platform that joins the civil society organizations located in the Danube River basin with a view of ensuring and enhancement of the civil society participation and networking within the framework of the EU strategy for the Danube Region. Respect of democracy and human rights, supremacy of the Law, efficient management, adherence to the market economy principles, sustainable development which takes social aspects into account, the necessity to protect the environment, principles of ethnic and gender equality as well as a principle of the balanced development of the region are the key principles of the DCSF.

### **GENERAL PROVISIONS**

**The Ukrainian network of the Danube Civil Society Forum** is established as a voluntary association of non-governmental organizations (NGO), scientific and analytical institutions, regional and local development agencies and the organizations that do bear such names but actually perform the same functions, that work in the Ukrainian part of the Danube Region (Odessa, Chernivtsi, Ivano-Frankivsk and Transcarpathian Regions) and at the national level, and that are eager to establish a strong institutional basis capable of accomplishing the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (The Danube Strategy) in Ukraine.

The Ukrainian network of the Danube Civil Society Forum functions *without establishing a separate legal entity*. Cooperation among its members will be effected on the principle of partnership.

*The number of its members is unlimited.* However, as the Forum expands, it is proposed to adhere to the principles of expediency and retention of coordination and manageability of the joint activity pursued by the network members.

### **OBJECTIVE**

The objective of establishment and activity of the Ukrainian network of the Danube Civil Society Forum is to join efforts of the NGOs, scientific and analytical institutions, regional and local development agencies and the organizations that do bear such names but actually perform the same functions, that work in the Ukrainian part of the Danube region in order to facilitate the effective accomplishment of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region of Ukraine and provide for a joint work of the Ukrainian civil society with the civil societies of other Danube Region countries with a view of accomplishing the Danube Strategy.

### **REQUIREMENTS TO POTENTIAL MEMBERS OF THE DSCF UKRAINIAN NETWORK**

The potential members (candidates to membership) should share the key principles and tasks of the Danube Civil Society Forum that are stipulated in its Statute.

The potential members (candidates to membership) should meet the following **criteria**:

- To actively function in the Ukrainian territory of the Danube Region for at least two years that precede lodging of the application to join the network.
- To possess experience in cooperation with the civil society and the authorities of various levels.
- To possess experience in accomplishing projects and programs, or act in the spheres which are referred to as the focal areas of the Danube Strategy.
- To be financially viable.
- Do not participate in any malpractices, including corrupt practices and laundering of the money gained by illegal ways, advocacy of xenophobia, ethnic enmity and discrimination of rights and dignity of people by any reasons (race, national, gender, sexual, etc.).
- Do not participate directly in the activities of political parties and associations that function in Ukraine and in the activities of their local branches that function in the Ukrainian part of the Danube Region. Along with that, the potential members should be able to carry on a dialogue with diverse political actors so as to attract their attention to the Danube Strategy

as an instrument of sustainable development of the Ukrainian part of the Danube Region and improve the life quality of its dwellers.

This list is not exhaustive and may be added or amended when discussing the Concept.

### **ACTIVITY**

The network activity will include:

- Permanent exchange of information among the network members concerning the development of the Ukrainian part of the Danube Region in terms of accomplishment of the Danube Strategy.
- Mutual expert assistance in the course of accomplishing the development projects and programs in the Ukrainian part of the Danube Region.
- Advisory assistance to the authorities at various levels concerning the participation in accomplishment of the Danube Strategy and its implementation in the Ukrainian part of the Danube Region.
- Building cooperation with various stakeholders involved in the accomplishment of the Danube Strategy in other countries of the Danube Region, including cooperation with similar civil society organizations.
- Organization and holding common measures (conferences, seminars, round tables, press-conferences, etc.) devoted to pressing aspects of the development of the Ukrainian part of the Danube Region and to the accomplishment of the Danube Strategy.
- Dissemination of information about the Danube Strategy and the status of its accomplishment in Ukraine. Promotion of understanding of the fact that the Danube Strategy is an instrument for sustainable development of the Ukrainian part of the Danube Region and improvement of the life quality of its dwellers.
- Joint publications related to participation of Ukraine in the Danube Strategy accomplishment.

This list is not exhaustive and may be added or amended when discussing the Concept.

### **COORDINATION**

With a view of coordinating the network activity it is proposed to establish a **Coordination Council** which can provide for a regular communication between the network members as well as coordination of actions with the Danube Civil Society Forum.

It is proposed to discuss the organizational set-up during the meeting to be held on March 3, 2014.

In order to ensure a regular communication between the network members, a draft **Communication Strategy of the DCSF Ukrainian Network** has been developed and will be presented for discussion during the meeting to be held on March 3, 2014.

### **FINANCIAL RESOURCES**

Financial resources can be accumulated out of the voluntary target contributions of the members aspiring to conduct joint activity, the contributions of third parties if their activity and origin of their funds do not contradict the key principles of the DCSF and the DCSF Ukrainian network as well as out of the grants provided by the national, foreign and international donors.

It is proposed to discuss the mechanism of accumulation of the network financial resources, taking into account that the network is not a legal entity, during the meeting to be held on March 3, 2014.

### **INFORMATION RESOURCES**

It is proposed that regular information and updating on the activity of the DCSF are made public through the **data portal «Civil Space of the Danube Region»**.

### **RELATIONS WITH THE DANUBE CIVIL SOCIETY FORUM**

The relations between the network and the Danube Civil Society Forum are to be maintained on the basis of adherence to its key principles stipulated in the DSCF Statute.

Participation in the Ukrainian network of the DCSF will not empower its members to automatically become the members of the DCSF. The membership in the DCSF is acquired in compliance with the procedure stipulated in its Statute only.

Participation in the Ukrainian network of the DCSF may not restrict the right of any member whatsoever to acquire membership in the DCSF as well as in other networks and associations, save those which activities are directed at advocacy of extremism, xenophobia, ethnic enmity and discrimination of rights and dignity of people by any reasons (race, national, gender, sexual, etc.), and the political associations.

Permanent coordination of actions between the Ukrainian network of the Danube Civil Society Forum and the DCSF is accomplished via the Coordination Council of the DCSF Ukrainian network.

The members of the Coordination Council of the Ukrainian network of the Danube Civil Society Forum will represent the network at the General Assemblies of the DCSF (it is proposed to discuss the procedural issues both within the network and by the DCSF during the meeting on March 3, 2014).

The Ukrainian network of the Danube Civil Society Forum may not make statements on behalf of the DCSF if these have not been earlier agreed with the DCSF supreme bodies. Similarly, the DCSF may not make any statements on behalf of the Ukrainian network of the Danube Civil Society Forum without reaching a preliminary agreement of the Coordination Council which, in its turn, is obliged to preliminary consult all network members on that matter.