



Cooperation and Development Network Eastern Europe

Strategy Statement 2016 - 2018

The Strategy Statement is a CDN document adopted by the General Assembly 2015, Chisinau, Moldova, in which the vision of CDN internal and external development, scope of action and goals for the next three years is stated as direction for the Executive Committee members, Secretariat and Member Organisations.

1. Introduction

Since its foundation in 2002, the Cooperation and Development Network has been working on the consolidation of Green movement in Eastern Europe, through development and empowerment of its Member Organizations, youth and green organizations. CDN supported their needs and helped strengthening their position in society, by gathering them under the same umbrella and helping them to assume stronger role in political debates, on local and regional, and international level.

In geographical sense, CDN targets the Balkans, south Caucasus and RUMB (the Russian Federation, Ukraine, Moldova and Belarus) region. CDN is set of activities such as the annual gatherings of Member Organisations on Regional Meetings, topical seminars, summer camps, study visits, trainings and General Assembly.

As it is outlined in following chapters, in the next years we want to enhance CDN's internal structure and explore new creative possibilities for cooperation with and between our MOs, POs and other relevant international organisations and funders. We plan to open perspectives and debates on issues relevant for youth and the Greens, and further experiment and improve in non-formal education.

2. Networking and CDN Membership

Being a network, maintaining and establishing new contacts, whether in the form of new Member or Partner organizations, experts on the topic, or through bilateral cooperation, is of essential importance for CDN and of highest benefit to its MOs. Hence, CDN will continue to work on strengthening its position in Balkan, Caucasus and RUMB region.

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In next three years we hope to find new member/partner organization from Balkans, especially from Montenegro and Greece. In addition, we would be happy to have interethnic organization, active on national level in Kosovo, to join our Network. In the RUMB region, we hope to find stable partners from Russia. In Caucasus region, we aim to consolidate connections with MOs and other local organizations.

3. Enhancement of CDN's internal structure and transfer of knowledge

CDN has grown and its structure and organisation have become more complex. To address all issues needed from our member organizations and facilitate all expected activities, CDN aims to rely on stronger initiatives from member and partner organizations, and initiatives coming from regional and working groups. Also, we want to continue with improvement of inclusion of MOs in decision making processes, to enhance internal democratic procedures and ensure that members shape CDN according to their needs.

As maturing organization, with organizations as members and frequent fluctuation of people, CDN faces challenges to preserve knowledge, experiences and practices with generation exchange. Therefore, in next few years we want to develop tools and methods to ensure preservation of knowledge within CDN structures - meaning Secretariat - Secretariat, EC - EC, Secretariat - EC exchange and knowledge on CDN between MOs, POs and WGs.

In next years we would like to establish position of interns in the office that would help in daily administrative work and project management. In such way we would open possibility for our members to experience how the work for an international organization looks like and provide them an opportunity to gain new skills. Finally, CDN would benefit from additional help and internal capacity building.

In order to further improve internal structures, CDN wants to install practice of regular meetings between Secretariats of different partner organizations. The purpose would be support on administrative level, exchange of practices and experiences regarding legal procedures, financial and project management, reporting and other tasks that comprise Secretariat obligations.

As there are constant developments in CDN's MOs and their respective regions, in order to have all the MOs informed about the developments and updates CDN aims to have MOs use the already existing communication channels more effectively. CDN will support distribution of a newsletter that will contain updates from the MOs, EC and the Secretariat. Also, CDN's website enables MOs to publish updates about their organization. Moreover, CDN will constantly seek for new and effective communication channels over the next years.

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4. Work with Member organizations

For Member Organizations CDN is a steering force and capacity builder that helps in educating new members on Green topics, develop skills useful for activists and encourages MOs to execute projects/events with or without CDN. CDN will continue to increase level of motivation and encourage active participation in order to empower the participants to be more active in their local environments.

Majority of CDN MOs are still at the development (organizational) step of the maturity ladder, therefore CDN's advisory role is very important for the MOs and the network's development. CDN will continue providing administrative and structural advisory support when needed. CDN will also invest in providing tools and resources to help MOs develop their administrative and financial capacities, for example on project management, organization management, fundraising and likewise.

Topics of CDN projects follow national context of countries of Member Organisations, but in the same time provide regional perspective and understanding of current events, economic and political situations. In the next years, CDN will put even more focus on regional cooperation and context of topics, providing wider picture of issues regarding Eastern Europe and increase expertise level on our events.

CDN strived to inspire its member organizations on mutual cooperation and it means to continue to invest its resources in helping them to become more independent. Stronger links and support between members would lead to strengthening and increase of capacities for entire Network. CDN wants to empower its members to assume more significant role in their societies and realize their potential.

5. New tools and methods

5.1. Non-formal education

CDN has always aimed to make its events a learning experience, not only topic-wise, but by using creative and unique working methods relying on non-formal education and experimental learning. In the future we strive to continue with exploring and developing new tools and methods in educational work and to collect and disseminate our working methods across the Network. We want CDN to become a reference centre for non-formal education on youth participation and green topics. For this reason, we believe it is important to invest time and resources in educating and training members of the EC and Secretariat in particular, so that they can serve as multipliers for the entire Network. In that regard, CDN will also explore, promote and include the usage of online educational tools (like Moodle) to become even more approachable, spread the target group and outreach.

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5.2. Digitalization

Internet and online communication are today essential - we are living in digital era and security, privacy, human rights, responsibility and sustainability are some of the concepts closely related to it. CDN supports Open Source movement and as such aims to provide guidance, example and expertise to its MOs in their way to protect their privacy, raise awareness on online misuse and to act thoughtfully. We use Open Source technology and aim to become even more sustainable in that sense, over the years.

6. Promoting Green Philosophy and Practices in Eastern Europe

CDN's overall aim is establishment of sustainable Green movement and emancipation of Youth and Green organisations in Eastern Europe. Over the years, CDN has taken the assignment to introduce and present new topics and contents to its members, by carefully choosing actual and relevant issues that needed to be addressed. CDN will continue to strive to be challenging for its members by staying up to the point and reactionary with political happenings.

Henceforth, CDN will continue to support its members to become active participants in local societies and empower them to act as multipliers for Green values and practices. The summation of joint efforts of Member organizations will lead to social change and bring Eastern Europe closer to Green values and principles.

7. External communication

CDN sees its role as a strong actor on the Green movements' scene. Therefore, CDN wants to engage itself in better communication with stakeholders on both inside and outside of the scene itself. In order to do this we recognize that it is important to improve our presence on the internet and in the social media. We aim to modernize our website, improve its function and make it more informative and interactive, and useful for both our members, but also as a reference centre for non-formal education.

CDN holds great knowledge and a great fund of resources which we would like to share with MOs and other organisations by starting an on-line library of resources on youth participation, educational and Green issues. Even though CDN has been around for ten years we believe that in the next three years we need to experiment with and work on our visual identity, in order to become more recognizable as a part of the Green movement.

END

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