Romanian Development Camp, 9th edition

“Sustainable Development Goals:

Turning words into practice”

4th – 6th of July 2016

Bucharest, Romania
This report was elaborated by the Romanian NGDO Platform FOND.

All publication rights belong to the Romanian NGDO Platform FOND. Any reproduction, entirely or partially, regardless of the technical methods used, is forbidden without the written consent of FOND.
WELCOMING REMARKS

H.E. Mr. Victor Micula, State Secretary for Political Analysis and Liaison with Parliament, Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Mrs. Anca Stoica, Programme Manager, United Nations Development Programme – Regional Centre for Europe and Central Asia
Mrs. Natalia Budescu, President, The Romanian NGDO Platform (FOND)/Executive Director, The Association for Cross-Border Cooperation “Lower Danube Euroregion”
Mr. Doru Mitrana, Programme Co-ordinator, Global Compact Network Romania

The 9th edition of the Romanian Development Camp was organized with a focus on the new global framework of actions established along with the adoption of one of the most important documents – Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDGs). The event aimed at raising awareness on Romania’s expertise and good practices as an international donor and its role in the implementation of this global agenda. The 2016 edition, entitled Sustainable Development Goals: Turning Words into Practice, marked the seventh year when the the Romanian NGDO Platform – FOND organized the Romanian Development Camp in partnership with the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the United Nations Development Programme – Regional Centre for Europe and Central Asia.

Ms. Natalia Budescu, the President of the Romanian NGDO Platform – FOND opened the official session, after a musical moment offered by Ikhaya Drum Band. Mrs. Natalia Budescu started off by stressing the importance of Romania as an international donor and the engagement of a wider variety of stakeholders – the civil society, the Romanian government, the academia or even the media – in the light of implementing more sustainable actions.

H.E. Victor Micula, the Romanian State Secretary for Political Analysis and Liaison with Parliament, drew attention on the strategic actions made by the European Union in regards the promotion of international cooperation, with a special concern attached to security and development. Within this context, the active efforts of Romania taken in this direction acquire a higher significance, especially along with the adoption of a new development cooperation law. In his opinion, by consolidating trade, by investing in sustainable work environments and by developing a win-win cooperation at the global scale, the strong commitment to international cooperation and sustainable development can be efficiently maximized.

In addition, the other interventions made reference to related subjects, such as the new financing for development framework and the contribution brought by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in international development and in the promotion of the new, broader and universal SDGs. Thus, as Ms. Anca Stoica explained, there is a need of reframing the way in which the Official Development Assistance (ODA) is being allocated. In relation to this, Mr. Doru Mitrana focused extensively on the opportunities brought by engaging the private, the civil society and of the public sectors and the efficiency of partnerships between these actors in the implementation of the SDGs.
In the end of the opening session, a video message by Dr. Dhananjayan Sriskandarajah was delivered, tackling the subject of the importance of the civil society organizations (CSOs) in the process of promoting the new 2030 Agenda. Apart from raising awareness and actual implementation, the civil society organisations should hold politicians and high officials accountable, in order to generate public pressure and more efficient sustainable actions.

The Sustainable Development Goals – Turning Words into Practice

**Moderator: Mrs. Cristina Rigman**, Vice-president, The Romanian NGDO Platform (FOND)/Executive Director Pro Vobis - National Resource Center for Volunteerism  
**Mr. Ernesto Soria Morales**, Senior Policy Analyst, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)  
**Mr. Radu Iacob**, Counselor, General Secretariat of the Government  
**Alexandra Dedu**, Secretary I, Directorate for UN, Specialized Agencies and Francophonie, Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
**Mrs. Luminița Ghiță**, Head of Unit, Sustainable Development and Public Policies Unit, Romanian Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forests  
**Mrs. Sarah Kristine Johansen**, Policy Officer, Globalt Fokus/CONCORD

Transition from MDGs to SDGs

The 8 universal MDGs covered aspects ranging from combating extreme poverty and hunger, halting the spread of HIV/AIDS and to facilitating primary education, all of these by 2015. Yet, in 2012, a new UN conference on Sustainable Development was held, marking the passing of two decades after the moment of the Rio Earth Summit. The Rio+20 Conference addressed two major themes, revolving around the issues of Green Economy in the context of poverty eradication and establishing an International Framework for Sustainable Development (IFSD). Within the framework of discussions established during the Conference on IFSD in Indonesia, an initiative coming from UN Member States Colombia, Guatemala and Peru called for the revision of the main global priorities. Thus, the ‘Sustainable Development Goals’ were created and by June 2012, it was decided to initiate their adoption – a preparatory process which would take almost 3 years.

The 2030 Agenda, formally known under the title *Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)*, contains 17 priorities, along with 169 indicators, linked directly with the provisions established within the Addis Ababa Agenda from the Third International Conference on Financing for Development.
The key features of the 2030 Agenda:

- It is **universal** ⇒ it should be adopted by the entire world, by both developed and developing countries. Transversely, it should be adopted not only by governments, but also by the private sector and the civil society.
- It is **integrated** ⇒ Goals and targets are highly interconnected;
- It is **transformative** ⇒ major transformations have to be realized in order to make it inclusive, both on a short and long term.
  1. ‘Leave no one behind’ principle;
  2. Preserve natural resources and the ecosystem services on which human well-being depends;
  3. Create inclusive economies;
  4. Build peaceful societies;
  5. Establish a new global partnership.

**Policy Coherence on Sustainable Development (PCSD)** is an essential component for the implementation and the interactions of the SDGs, due to the strong existent need to understand policy decisions. PCSD plays a vital role in:

1) Fostering synergies across economic, social and environmental areas;
2) Identifying trade-offs and reconcile domestic policies objectives with international agreed ones;
3) Avoiding spill-overs in domestic policies.

**Romania and the 2030 Agenda**

After brief discussions, it was pointed out that Romania currently faces the following institutional challenges in implementing the 2030 Agenda:

- Ad-hoc decision-making;
- Lack of capacity building often expressing lack of political will;
- Poor coordination among policies, line ministers and departments within the Romanian Government;
- The ‘legalistic’ approach of the Romanian public sector, which is more focused on procedure perspectives rather than the process of achieving goals.

With a view to overcome these, Romania should make an effort towards **strategic planning and coherence at the level of line ministries** that are supposed to coordinate their activities in order to a support an effective implementation of the SGDs.
The EU and the 2030 Agenda

There are many uncertainties at the European level as there still lacks an official initiative or statement on the part of the European Commission on the implementation of the SDGs. Added to this is the fact that official discussions have been mostly held only at the level of Foreign Affairs Committees. A need for strategic coordination and implementation has emerged at the European level, as the EU Member States have begun to ask for leadership and guidance from the European Commission.

In addition to these, the European Consensus on Development should be reconsidered in line with the 2030 Agenda. Its revision should:

- Include a stronger emphasis on the matter of migration;
- Focus more on gender equality;
- Underline the creation of decent jobs;
- Attribute greater significance to good governance and human rights.

Theme: Financing for Development in the new development context

In order to boost the shared responsibility of eradicating extreme poverty by 2030, there is an imperative need of reforming and funding. There is still a big gap in development between poor and rich countries. Extreme poverty is still widespread, yet the number of people living with less than $1.25 per day has decreased a lot in the last years. But how do we make sure that we do eradicate extreme poverty by 2030? The workshop in discussion focused on providing a theoretical framework for a better comprehension of the development landscape and of the challenges in meeting the financial commitment for the SDGs, along with the identification of all the financial flows which are being mobilized.

Facilitator: Mrs. Anca Stoica, Programme Manager, United Nations Development Programme – Regional Centre for Europe and Central Asia
Mrs. Amy Dodd, Director, UK Aid Network
Mrs. Margaux Lecardonnel, Partnership Consultant, EIB Focal Point/UN UNDP Representation Office
Mrs. Sandra Vlasic, Head of Office, UNDP Croatia

The following types of funding were emphasized:
- Domestic Public Finance (these are funds generated by all of us and the opportunities, especially for the developing countries are significant).
- **International Public Finance** (entails the Official Development Assistance - ODA and the international financial institutions; international financial institutions such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund have a huge potential in mobilizing resources).

- **Domestic Private Finance** (it is important to have a proper investment climate to encourage private investment by reducing the bureaucracy, reforming the tax administration system, reducing the fiscal deficit, reducing the illicit financial flows, all in order to ensure that the private sector would be interested to get involved.)

- **International Private Finance** (they are able to bring innovation, therefore they can be considered strategic partners).

- **Official Development Assistance** (is no longer enough in present times; resource mobilization becomes more and more crucial, countries are more than ever responsible for their own development so is important that they invest their resources properly).

- **Multilateral development banks - MDBs** (have a mandate of fostering economic and social progress by financing projects and generating capital, at the *global level* the main MDB is the World Bank. At the *European level* there are two main MDBs: EIB, EBRD).

The importance of crowdfunding in financing for development:

- It increases community support;
- It provides tremendous support to your case and the change you want to make in the world you want to live in;
- A sure way of mobilizing people;
- It provides quick feedback;
- It increases your visibility; you can engage the media;
- A good way of market researching as well;
- A team building exercise as well.

Crowdfunding can bring multiple advantageous aspects to future projects:
The workshop facilitated an open dialogue between the participants, having in mind the quite short experience of Romania as an international donor. By creating multiple working groups, the discussion focused on the identification of the main challenges in the education system regarding the international development field and various possible solutions to them.

**Facilitator: Mr. Ștefan Cibian**, Board Member, The Romanian NGDO Platform (FOND)/Independent Consultant, ARCADIA Association

The participants, organized in three working groups, agreed upon the fact that future experts and practitioners of international development should be exposed to field experiences and should develop more "soft skills" in this context. They should also have a sense of vocation towards helping others and should be realistic in their approaches and their expected results.

**Pre-universitary Education**

Introducing Development Education within the "Școala Altfel" national programme, targeting thus elementary and secondary schools;
Coherence and coordination between courses;
Educating children, but also parents;
Introducing the private sector in the process of financing the promoted activities.

**Masters' Degree Programmes**

Partnerships with relevant institutions in the light of a larger variety of internship opportunities;
Inviting field practitioners to assist and contribute to courses;
Continuous process of forming of academic staff;
More research partnerships between Romania and other countries;
An open dialogue between researchers and field practitioners;
Coaching and mentorship laboratories.

**Internships and Jobs**

Online platform with centralized job offers, trainings and internships
Trainings within institutions and organizations in order to identify the development aspect of their activities;
Sandwich courses with 1 year gap for jobs/ internships
Trade shows for the promotion of institutions, organizations, universities.

**Cultural relativism in Development Field**

The workshop invited participants to get involved into an extended, interactive and practical exercise, stimulating open argumentation to reflect the personal opinions in connection with the concept of ‘cultural relativism’ and other related terms.

**Facilitator: Mrs. Andreea Tudorache**, Trainer and Youth Consultant, A.R.T. Fusion
The discussion, apart from the interactive exercise, was mostly focused on the inquiry of the existence of universal values. Matters such as objectivity and personal/spiritual versus community/social development were reached. Despite the fact that most of the present participants agreed upon the existence of universal values, within the practical exercise, they positioned themselves differently according to their reflection in principle and in practice. On concluding remarks, the participants noticed that these universal values, despite the fact that they are often enclosed in various international treaties and declarations (such as the 1948 UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights), they should be constantly challenged in order for progress to be recorded.

**THEMATIC WORKSHOPS (II)**

In the context of the 2005-2014 UNESCO Decade for Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), the promotion of education gained more significance and impact, along with the advancement of gender equality, the establishment of peace and the evolution of the struggle for global poverty reduction. The workshop in cause focused on the creation of a framework of discussion, based on four main working groups, on the subject of identifying and improving ESD, both at national and European level, highlighting the efforts of main stakeholders.

Facilitator: Mrs. Adela Militaru, Trainer, ARCADIA Association
Mrs. Paola Berbeglia, President, CreA Association - Centro Ricerche e Attività

Using **key competencies may improve the learning outcomes and content of the current system of education** by focusing on establishing and developing a more European-oriented approach. Organized in 4 working groups, the participants came up with the recommendations in this regard:
- The development of non-formal education;
- The inclusion of an education system less focused on grading, but more on self-evaluation;
- The introduction of Human Rights education from an early stage;
- An emphasis attributed to life-skills through interactive methods.
In order to create exploratory, inclusive and action-oriented learning environments, there should be more initiatives, including the introduction and development of training programmes within the higher education system. Moreover, with the view to generate societal transformations, change must address multiple generations, therefore, educating both children and parents is an imperative aspect. The activities related to ESD organized at the European level have also been underlined, the speakers referring to the efforts of the 4th hub within CONCORD – the Global Citizenship Education and Peoples’ Engagement hub – which are guided by the 4th Sustainable Development Goal from the 2030 Agenda and aim at promoting inclusive and quality education.

International Volunteering

The workshop focused on identifying the importance of international volunteering as one of the central development methods. Within the open discussions, the participants shared their personal views in connection to this matter and even some first-hand experiences. Later on, they were organized into two working groups, supporting their pro and counter visions on why international volunteering should be promoted from the perspective of development cooperation.

**Facilitator: Mrs. Cristina Rigman**, Vice-President, The Romanian NGDO Platform (FOND)/Executive Director, Pro Vobis – National Resource Centre for Volunteerism

International volunteering represents a long-term, yet remunerated commitment. For these reasons, many choose it over regular volunteering. Having these in mind, during the workshop, a video containing overseas experiences of Romanian and international volunteers, supported by the Pro Vobis – The National Resource Centre for Volunteerism was introduced. The video can be viewed online [here](#). Examples of international volunteering programmes: [Volunteering Service Overseas](#), [United Nations Volunteers](#), [European Union Aid Volunteers](#), [European Volunteering Services](#).
Why should international volunteering be promoted from the perspective of development cooperation?

**For**
- Most efficient method of non-formally educating citizens, leaders and experts;
- Combating the lack of openness of the population;
- Promoting the image of Romania as an international donor;
- Positive impact on foreign national policy and on the private sector;
- Consolidating development cooperation within participatory states;
- Investing in exchange experiences;
- The impact of the project at grassrotes level.

**Against**
- Local people should be selected;
- Investments must be made in the local residents;
- Volunteers must be better prepared - intercultural sensivity;
- Not knowing the local language can represent a real impediment;
- It may encourage ‘voluntourism’;
- Transitions should be made not only North - South, but also South - North and South - South.

**DAY II**

*Romania’s expertise and good practices in development.
Presenting projects supported by the Romanian Official Development Assistance*

After its accession in the European Union in 2007, Romania became a donor of Official Development Assistance (ODA), providing support to partner countries such as the Republic of Moldova, Armenia, Belarus, Ukraine, or Libya. At the national level, the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) is the main coordinator of ODA, through the RoAid Programme, managed by the Development Assistance Unit. The first session from the second day aimed at drawing the attention of the public on the efforts of Romania as an international donor.

**Moderator:** Mrs. Anemari-Helen Necșulescu, Board Member, The Romanian NGDO Platform (FOND)/ Programme Director, Habitat for Humanity Romania

**Mrs. Olivia Baciu,** International Development Consultant and Trainer, Partners Foundation for Local Development/ Board Member CONCORD

**Mr. Mircea Eșanu,** Executive Director, Moldova Social Investment Fund

**Mrs. Bianca Buzetto,** Development Officer, People’s Development Foundation

**Mr. Oleg Stiopca,** Director, “BizGates” Agency, Republic of Moldova

**Mr. Cosmin Bârzan,** Executive Chairman, The Civic Resource Centre/ Board Member, The Romanian NGDO Platform (FOND)
One of the first projects presented during the session was that of the Partners Foundation for Local Development (PFLD), in partnership with the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the United Nations Development Programme – Regional Center for Europe and Central Asia (UNDP). The project “Promoting Integrity and Anti-Corruption at the Local Level in Eastern Partnership Area: Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine” aims at increasing the transparency, efficiency and accountability of the local governments in delivering public goods and services. Inspired by the successful experiences recorded in Latin America, the innovative anti-corruption methodology has been applied until now in more than 10 Central and East European countries and 25 local governments. The implemented strategy involves a series of trainings with anti-corruption practitioners, who will eventually collaborate with the local authorities targeted. Useful resources in terms of knowledge and anticorruption tools are embedded in certain open sourced publications which can be accessed online here.

The session continued with the presentation of a project implemented by the Moldova Social Investment Fund (MSIF). The Programme for Technical and Financial Assistance allocated by the Government of Romania for preschool institutions in the Republic of Moldova, started in the summer of 2014, aimed at the restoration of 700 kindergartens across the 32 counties, reaching to more than 72,000 children. A video containing testimonials and displaying the progresses recorded in this project was presented. The video can be accessed and viewed online here.

The People’s Development Foundation (PDF) presented its projects and activities implemented with the support of the Romanian MFA. Their project entitled “Romania – Palestine: a bridge for education” was carried out in partnership with the Italian AVSI Foundation and aimed at providing inclusive education in the city of Jericho for children with disabilities, in the context of contributing to the creation of a national policy in this regard. The idea of this type of project emerged from the need for training of Palestinian teachers, especially in what concerns the instruments used in teaching children with disabilities. All teachers applied the newly acquired skills and knowledge, reaching to a total of 300 children, who benefitted from direct and interactive activities. Future plans of this project include a project developed in collaboration with the LifeGate Organization, in order to provide a larger variety of job opportunities for people with disabilities.

The next project to be presented was “Procedures group and packing house for marketing table grape” of the BizGates Agency, from the Republic of Moldova. The project covered not just the issue of food, but also the story of some communities in Moldova, as table grape production represents an important source of income in rural areas for more than 3000 local producers. The project was implemented with the support of the technical assistance provided by the Romanian MFA (through RoAid), and USAID, in collaboration with local public authorities. It aimed at meeting the quality standard requirements of the market. The project was implemented in the village of Costești, which represents the main center for grape exports from Moldova. The contribution of RoAid entailed consultative legal support and negotiations in the incipient stages, followed by study tours in Italy on cooperation development, the
production of a new type of packaging for European market, and the organization of international trade shows. The project successfully managed to represent a model of sustainable development of the table grape value chain in Moldova and a model of synergy among different development partners, establishing at the same time a linkage of small farmers export markets.

The last project to be presented was the Black Sea NGO Forum, organized by the Romanian NGDO Platform (FOND). BSNGOF annually gathers CSO representatives and high-level officials from the countries around the Black Sea, aiming to consolidate the regional cooperation. The added value of the Forum consists in its multi-actor approach, which brings at the same table the CSOs, the academia, and also the officials from MFA. The 2016 edition will take place in late October and early November and will continue the implementation of its strategic framework (established during the last year’s edition) and support provided to the thematic working groups, as well continue the monitoring process of the enabling environment for the civil society in the Black Sea Region.

Partner countries’ perspectives in the new development context

The session brought together civil society representatives from different partner countries of Romania to share their own challenges and approaches in the development framework, as well as to highlight needs and expectations from donor countries.

**Moderator:** Mr. Valentin Burada, Program Director, Civil Society Development Foundation

**Mrs. Victoria Bucătaru,** Research and Programs Director, Foreign Policy Association, Republic of Moldova

**Mrs. Irina Tsintsadze,** Project Coordinator, Civil Society Institute Georgia

**Ms. Angela Grămadă,** Research Associate, The Romanian NGDO Platform (FOND)

The session started off by presenting and analyzing the national context of the Republic of Moldova, which is actually one of the highest recipients of European aid per capita worldwide. At the policy level, the country is currently facing a very politicized environment. The lack of transparency and accountability of the governments is affecting the relationship with the EU. Cooperation between the government and the civil society is vital in the development context, considering the need for monitoring how the aid received by the Republic of Moldova is being spend. In this regard, an institution has been created - the National Participation Council, which gathers representatives of 30 associations, designed to lead the main role in ODA framework, by offering support in the process of public policies elaboration and monitoring.

The lack of communication between the official authorities, the civil society and the population is constantly affecting the development context. According to recent statistics on
public opinion, the popularity of the European Union is gradually decreasing and one of the main reasons is because there is no proper communication strategies to explain the benefits of the assistance coming from the EU.

Next presentation introduced the situation of Georgia. One of the major problems is related to a very weak Georgian civil society and the environment in which it activates. Despite the fact that it is provided an overall satisfactory sustainability, the CSOs in the Georgia are perceived in general negatively. This is mostly caused by a real actual problem – that is, the transfer of experts from CSOs to governmental institutions, a transfer which is gradually, but surely affecting organizational capacity. All of these contribute ultimately to a weaker civic participation. For this reason, it is important to ensure permanent communication between CSOs throughout Georgia, both at urban and rural level, thus building capacity linkages and accountability. In addition to this, another problem identified is the fact that the majority of donors – including the European Union – tend to invest in specific projects rather than strengthening and consolidating organizations.

The last country to be introduced was Ukraine. The recent years were difficult for the Ukrainian civil society, yet, after the annexation of Crimea different changes occurred in Ukraine, as numerous voluntary movements appeared. This aspect is very important in order to understand the things that are changing now in Ukraine concerning the public institutions, the economy, along with the whole society as such. With the support of the Ukrainian civil society, the public authorities implemented a wide range of reforms. The on-going 2020 strategy for development aims to create a Ukrainian society based on European standards, targeting sustainable development, social justice, and pride. The entire concept of change is built around the idea of building a civic nation for Ukraine. The envisaged road map consists of 62 reforms in different sectors to be implemented in 5 years from now.

The main supporters for the reforms in Ukraine are foreign donors such as the European Commission (through the Eastern Partnerships Program and other similar programmes), USAID, and the International Monetary Fund, alongside countries like Germany, Sweden and Switzerland.

**Migration and sustainable development**

Having in mind the recent and on-going intercontinental flows of migrants in Europe from different parts of the world, affected by conflict, the workshop intended to be a general presentation of the migration phenomenon, putting under critical lenses both the advantages and disadvantages these movements determine on social, economic and political level.

**Facilitator:** Mrs. Romina Matei, Project Manager, Intercultural Institute Timisoara  
Mr. Bashy Qurashy, Secretary General, European Muslim Initiative for Social Cohesion - EMISCO  
Mr. Mircea Mocanu, Head of Office, International Organization for Migration
Although the very popular term of ‘migration’ is being increasingly used in all spheres of the society, there is a more adequate word that better describe this phenomena of people moving from one country to another, and that is ‘mobility’. Today, there are almost 65 million displaced people in the world, the equivalent of 14% of the total population of Europe.

We need to keep reminding ourselves that these people flee their country because of necessity reasons as to have better living conditions. Yet, most of the time, they leave their conflict-burdened countries in order to survive.

When talking about mobility and development, we should keep in mind the fact that the receiving countries develop inclusive policies that take into account the needs of their citizens but also the needs of the migrants. People are bringing with themselves education, ideas, products, experience, expertise, and knowledge. Due to this fact, the world is richer and more inclusive than 30 years ago.

To manage migration, we have to send constructive elements (educators) in the labour exporting countries to foster peaceful and inclusive societies there, as well as to elaborate genuine media campaigns exhibiting the real situation in Europe, characterized by extreme racism, islamophobia, lack of job opportunities and bad housing. Yet, by 2030, there are high chances that people coming to terms and understanding that the person living the next door may be from other countries than their own.
The world is currently going through a series of changes. On an annual basis, increasing violent conflicts, alongside natural disasters, contribute to the alarmingly rising humanitarian crises that call for the intervention of various international organizations, in association with national governments. This workshop underlined the efforts and approaches of these international actors towards the existent humanitarian crises.

**Mr. Gabriel Pascal**, DRR Program Manager Habitat for Humanity Romania  
**Mrs. Anca Stoica**, Programme Manager, United Nations Development Programme – Regional Centre for Europe and Central Asia  
**Mr. Tudor Guset**, Public Manager, Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
**Mrs. Maia Chkhenkeli**, Programme Coordinator, South Caucasus Mission Against Hunger

Despite the fact that in recent years conflicts have increased significantly their number, they have become less intense and less deadly. Yet, the violence in the Middle East region is reversing this trend. The expenditure on the humanitarian sector revolves around the sum of $18.68 billion, while the expenditure in the military sector is about $1,711 billion. As food for thought, natural disasters alone, during the period 2001-2010, produced damages worthy of $1 trillion. However, from 2000 to 2015, the number of organisation responding to humanitarian disasters increased to 600, mainly due to the alarmingly increasing humanitarian needs.

The World Humanitarian Summit (23rd – 24th of May 2016, Istanbul, Turkey) was the first one of its kind, gathering over 9,000 participants from all around the world. Following the WHS, it was decided that establishing stronger links of the humanitarian sector with long-term finance should be a top priority - as humanitarian assistance in terms of money is the most efficient solution that answers local needs.
The workshop introduced different examples of how libraries help communities in Moldova and Romania. An interactive group exercise was organized, in which participants had the opportunity to pick a community problem and find the right service to make a difference in solving it as a library.

**Facilitator: Mrs. Camelia Crișan**, Executive Director, Progress Foundation  
**Mrs. Mariana Harjevschi**, Director, B.P. Hașdeu Municipal Library, Republic of Moldova

At the beginning of the workshop, three inspirational videos were displayed, illustrating the way in which libraries have transformed the lives of local communities. Each separate video can be viewed online [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#).

The workshop revolved around the idea that libraries do support sustainable development, by promoting universal literacy, helping government, civil society and business to understand local information needs better and by preserving and providing access to the culture of the world.

Public libraries, through their activities, are committed to the implementation of the 17 SDGs. They help provide opportunities for people to improve their own lives and support informed decision-making by governments and communities to provide services that reduce poverty and improve prosperity. They also support literacy programmes and gender equality by providing free of harm learning spaces.

Following these discussions, there was a presentation of the main achievements of the B.P. Hașdeu Municipal Library from Chișinău, with an emphasis on one of their most successful projects – the Trolleybook, an interactive and fun space, provided with books, consoles and games for people of all ages.
The main goal of the side events was to inspire participants to become more involved in development efforts, thus becoming active multipliers of the 17 SDGs, which covered a significant part of the agendas of the side events, through discussions on how to reach more effectively the target audiences.

**Side Event (I): Building a career in international development**

The discussion during the side event was moderated by Mrs. Adela Rusu, Executive Director of the Romanian NGDO Platform FOND, with the participation of Mrs. Anca Stoica, Programme Manager from the United Nations Development Programme – Regional Center for Europe and Central Asia, of Mr. Mihai Lupu, from the Romanian Center for Innovation in Local Development and of Mrs. Irina Mihălcuț, Program Manager from the Lugarawa Development Foundation from Tanzania. Each speaker presented his or her own career path and shared both their successes and challenges along the way, with a view to gather inspirationally prosperous personal stories.

One of the most underlined aspects in the discussion was that of the lack of entry level jobs. For this reason, any type of professional experience is considered welcomed. One should pursue all possible opportunities – for example, working for the civil society or even creating new and dynamic NGOs. In order to make the first steps into a fruitful career in international development, it is best to try to understand the context in which some organizations are activating. We have to make sure that the values promoted by the organization are truly reflecting our own interests. Moreover, any newcomers should try to understand that what they have learned in schools is not always compatible with the situations in which they will find themselves in the field. Most of the time, the academic part is not coinciding with the praxis one.

The best advice: choose a specific topic you are interested in within the field of International Development, and then choose the best organization and the best environment in which you can have the biggest impact.
“Imagine how you’d like to change your reality and then change it.”

Technology has become an universal language and it should be used on a regular basis in achieving our objectives. When we configure the message we want to communicate, we can resort to storytelling, as people care more about a story rather than a piece of news. Therefore, *what is the story we would like to share with the world?* We should also be careful when transmitting our message and include expressive and interactive visual channels (animations, videos, comics) that attract viewers. In connection to this, Modulab displayed a number of videos with their projects, in which innovative methods were used in order to raise awareness to various social subjects. The videos can be accessed [here](#).

Nevertheless, in order to make any external changes, we have to make a change inside our minds. For this reason, after sending out our message, we should think how we can mold its essence in the minds of our audience.

The entire discussion was moderated by Mrs. Olguța Anghel (Project Assistant from United Nations Development Programme – Regional Center for Europe and Central Asia), with the participation of Mr. Florin Marin (Research and Communication Consultant, IRH Gender Equality Team, UNDP), and Mrs. Ioana Calen (Co-founder, Modulab).

As a successful example of efficient communication, UNDP, in partnership with Positive Negatives, presented the comic they realized, *depicting the story of a Roma woman named Daria, and her family, as they struggle with discrimination and poverty.* The comic can be viewed online [here](#).

Photo Source: [UNDP Eurasia](#)
**Photo booth**

Pick your own SDG cardboard and show your interest and implication in achieving the 2030 Agenda! The organized photo booth was a real success, as participants enjoyed having their pictures taken together with their friends, holding different cardboards with their favourite Sustainable Development Goal or with various other action-calling messages.

“I am a super global citizen...and I mean it!”

“We all have a story to tell...and it matters”

“A better community is a shared engagement. Are you in?”

“A better world starts with a better me!”

“Speak out loud for democracy!”

*Photo Source: The Romanian NGDO Platform – FOND Official Facebook Page*