



*This document is made possible by the generous support of the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The contents are the responsibility of the Black Sea NGO Network and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the United States Government. This document is also made possible with support from the German Marshall Fund of the United States (GMF), and its content does not necessarily reflect the views of GMF or the Balkan Trust for Democracy.*

*Dear colleagues,*

The Black Sea NGO Network (BSNN), Bulgaria presents here the programme of the final round table of the project '*Initiative for Effective Citizens' Control on Governments: Practical Aspects of Transparency, Accountability and Efficiency*', supported by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) through the Bulgaria Fund of the Balkan Trust for Democracy and the German Marshall Fund of the United States (GMF). The project has been implemented by the Black Sea NGO Network (BSNN) in NE Bulgaria and involved exchange with partner organizations, representatives of administrations and media from Romania, Constanta and Galati Counties.

The round table was entitled '**Transborder Cooperation in Support of Good Governance**'. The event was attended by representatives of NGOs, governments and government agencies and media, as well as by their experts and associates. The participants got acquainted with the practical work done in the course of project implementation. They also discussed good practices in view of transparency, accountability and efficiency of governments. The round table formulated issues and policy areas where civil society and governments had considerable problems and would jointly try to formulate approaches and means that would help improve the situation in the problem areas. Those will be addressed in future activities. To sustain the achievements of this project the project team has set up a network for contacts between governments and civil society based on the current project and previous activities of the BSNN.

## **PROGRAMME ROUND TABLE**

### **“Transborder Cooperation in Support of Good Governance”**

**11 and 12 September 2009**

**Varna, Best Western Park Hotel**

#### **11 September 2009 (Friday)**

Moderator of the morning session: Emma Gileva, BSNN

9.45–10.00 – Registration of the participants

10.00–10.15 – Opening of the round table event. Introduction of all participants

10.15–10.30 – Aims and purposes of the project. Purpose and tasks of the round table – Emma Gileva, BSNN

10.30–10.00 – Views and opinions of the participants from Constanta and Galati about trans-border cooperation and their participation in the project – speeches and opinions of the Romanian guests

10.30–11. 00 – What is good governance. Principles of good governance Examples – Aleksandar Shivarov, BSNN

11.00–11. 30 – Review of practical work on the project: the Secret Client Module – summary and cases – Alexander Assenov, BSNN, Coordinator of the Black Sea Centre for Environmental Law and Advocacy

11.30–12.00 – Examples and good practices from the experience of organizations and administrations from Galati and Constanta – Romanian guests

12.00–12.15 – Discussion

12.15–12. 30 – Access to information – the basis of transparency and accountability of governments; Review of practical work on the project: the Access to Information Module – Emma Gileva, BSNN

12.30–13.00 – Access to information – experience from a neighbouring country – examples from the experience of civil society organizations and administrations in Constanta and Galati

13.00–13.15 – Local government and experience from working with it in the sphere of access to information. Examples of good and bad practices – Stella Kovacheva, journalist, Access to Information Programme

13.15–13.30 – Oral request for access to information: everyday experience of work of reporters with the authorities – Rositsa Koleva, Pozvanete Daily Varna

13.30–14.30 – Lunch

Moderator of the afternoon session: Ralitsa Zhekova, BSNN

14.30–14.45 – Good practices and experience from Galati – presentations

14.45–15.00 – Good practices and experience from Constanta – presentations

15.00–15.15 – Good governance and environmental sustainability: a case study from North-Eastern Bulgaria – Aleksandar Shivarov, BSNN

15.15 – 15. 30 – Does the local authority in Varna serve the citizens of Varna? – Mariella Dimitrova, journalist from Radio Varna

15.30 – 15.45 – Working with the authorities – experience from Constanta

15.45 – 16.00 – Working with the authorities – experience from Galati

16.00–16.30 Coffee break

16.30–17.00 – Mechanisms of the access to information in support of the work of journalists with authorities – journalist from Pozvanete Daily Varna

17.00–18.00 – Experience from Galati and Constanta – good and bad practices, tendencies and processes

18.00–18.30 – Discussion – Transparency, accountability and effectiveness. The influence of civil society and cooperation between authorities and civil society organizations

19.00 – Supper

## **12 September 2009 ( Saturday)**

8.30–9.30 – Breakfast

Moderator of the morning session: Aleksandar Shivarov, BSNN

9.30–9.45 – Administrative good practices from Suvorovo Municipality , Varna Region – Zarina Buchvarova, senior expert

9.45–10.00 – Experience from Turgovishte, Silistra and Dobrich region – good and bad practices

10.00–10.30 – Charter of good practices of the civil servant – Ralitsa Zhekova, BSNN

10.30–11.00 – Public response and significance of the messages coming from the media – Diana Rainova, journalist from Dobrich

11.00–11.30 – Coffee break

11.30–12.30 – Review of the Charter of good administrative behaviour, opinions of representatives of administrations and NGOs and journalists, discussion

12.30–13.30 – Establishment of the networking group and review of ideas for continuation of the project – Emma Gileva, BSNN

13.30–14.00 – Review of the event, closing, assessment

14.00 – Lunch