WORKSHOP 11
Shrinking Spaces for Civil Society.
Are LGBTI organizations public freedoms under threat?
How do we respond?
Introduction

- Process started by ILGA Europe:
  - Take stock of issues and policy debates at hand
  - Gather experiences and reactions of members
  - Contribute to EU Human Rights Democracy and Network (HRDN) debates
  - Explore ways in which the network might want to engage in the future.
Facilitator: Pascale Charhon, Charhon Consultants

Discussants: Tamas Dombos, Hatter Society/ Hungarian LGBT Alliance, Hungary and Antonio Mihaijlov, Subversive Front, Macedonia
• Framing concepts and mapping the environment
• International human rights framework and EU policy setting
• Exploring the situation and needs of LGBTI organizations with respect to their right to operate in an enabling environment
Facilitator: Pascale Charhon, Charhon Consultants

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Framing concepts and mapping the environment

- International support for democracy and human rights face worrisome trends around the postcommunist and developing worlds
- Government are erecting legal and logistical barriers to externally sponsored democracy and rights programme run by NGOs
Framing concepts and mapping the environment

*Carnegie Endowment for International Peace*:

- Push back trend is global
- Trend is lasting
- The response is inadequate
Framing concepts and mapping the environment

The concept of “Shrinking Political Space”: «An environment of reduced opportunities for CSOs and NGOs to undertake a wide range of public actions»
• Framing concepts and mapping the environment

« Shrinking Political Space »

« An environment of reduced opportunities for CSOs and NGOs to undertake a wide range of public actions »

• Exclusion from participation in policy making;
• Feeling unsafe and stigmatized;
• Peaceful protest restricted;
• Limitations and exclusion from funding;
• Restrictions through legislation;
Framing concepts and mapping the environment

«Enabling environment»

« A set of conditions that impact on the capacity of citizens to participate and engage in the civil society arena in a sustained and voluntary manner» (Civicus- Enabling Environment index-EEI)

- Capability approach («demand side» of the environment- CSOs and citizens)
- «supply side» of the environment (i.e. Governance and policy measures)
Framing concepts and mapping the environment

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Civicus Enabling environment Index

- Socio-Economic Environment
- Socio-cultural environment
- Governance Environment
Framing concepts and mapping the environment

«Enabling environment»

Monitoring Matrix on Enabling Environment for Civil society Development (Balkan Civil society Development Network)

- Basic legal guarantees of freedoms
- Framework for CSO’S financial Viability and Sustainability
- Government – CSO relationship
• International normative policy environment and EU policy framework
  
  – United Nations founding treaties
    - Universal declaration on human rights
    - International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
    - Convention on elimination of Racial Discriminations
    - Convention on the Elimination of all forms of discrimination against women
    - Declaration on the rights and responsibilities of individuals, groups and organs of society to promote and protect universally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms
    - UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders (1999)
• International normative policy environment and EU policy framework
  – Council of Europe
  – OSCE (Copenhagen Document)
  – Busan Partnership for Effective Development cooperation
  – European Union
    - Charter of Fundamental rights of the EU (Article 11 and 12 freedom of assembly and association)
    - EU guidelines on human rights defenders
    - Guidelines for EU support to Civil society in Enlargement countries, 2014-2020
    - EU guidelines to promote the enjoyment of human rights by Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex (LGBTI) persons (2013)
    - EU Human rights Guidelines on Freedom of Expression « Online and Offline»
Guiding questions for further discussion

- What are concrete manifestations of “shrinking civil society space” and effects on LGBTI organizations that can be observed based on your experiences?
- How do you see the «shrinking space» trends evolving and affecting LGBTI organizations in the medium long term?
- What is the support LGBTI members organizations affected by the shrinking space effect might need?