



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 Mihajlov, Subversive Front, Macedonia



- Framing concepts and mapping the environment
- International human rights framework and EU policy setting
- Exploring the situation and needs of LGBTIs organizations with respect to their right to operate in an enabling environment



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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)



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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
- Governement – 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 ?