

Guiding Principles of Civil Society in the Danube Basin
Adopted at the DCSF Executive Committee Meeting in Sofia
16-17 March 2016

1. Designation

- 1.1. The name of the organization is: Danube Civil Society Forum.
- 1.2. The Danube Civil Society Forum, DCSF, is a non-partisan and non-profit organisation. No part of its net income benefits to any private organisation or individual.

2. Objectives

2.1. Within the framework of the European Union Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR) as defined/adopted in the Action Plan of the EU Commission for the EU Strategy for the Danube Region Brussels, 8.12.2010, SEC (2010) 1489 final, as well as the subsequent documents and within the framework of co-operation between the European Union and the relevant European countries the objectives of the Danube Civil Society Forum are:

- To facilitate and promote the Danube Strategy following the principles of respect for democracy and human rights, the rule of law, good governance, principles of market economy and social and environmental sustainable development.
- To support the existing non-governmental organizations, the creation of independent and autonomous non-governmental organizations, to strengthen the capacity of civil society and to support, assist and coordinate the efforts of its members.
- To promote a culture of dialogue and cooperation between civil society organizations and between civil society and public and private actors in the Danube Basin.
- To promote dialogue and solidarity between peoples and cultures.

2.2. In order to achieve its objectives, the DCSF:

- Holds a regular general assembly (The Danube Civil Society Forum) at least every second year,
- Cooperates with all public or private, international, including European or regional institutions whose activities are related to the objectives of the DCSF.
- Launches relevant research and documentation activities.
- The resources of the Danube Civil Society Forum are made up of contributions by its members and any other resources allowed under the law.

2.3. The working language of the Danube Civil Society Forum is English.

3. Members

3.1. Membership in the DCSF is open to civil society organisations that are based on the principles of respect for democracy and human rights, the rule of law, good governance, principles of market economy and social and ecological sustainable development.

3.1.1. Members of the DCSF are national or regional non-governmental, non-profit and non-partisan organisations, academics, academic institutions, individuals with special expertises on the issues related to the DS, i.e. grass roots organisations, trade unions, religious groups, minority groups, think tanks, non-profit foundations, national and international CSOs/networks and other relevant Civil Society actors from the Danube basin.

3.2. Relevant criteria of DCSF membership:

3.2.1. The DCSF members come from the CSOs Danube Strategy partner countries and from EU member states and international organisations/networks. Their number per each country should be balanced). (*Regional/Geographical criteria*)

3.2.2. Members should represent all variety of civil society actors. DCSF should be able to contribute to the thematic aspects of the Danube Strategy. (*Diversity & Competence*).

3.2.3. Members are selected taking into account past and current activities in the Danube region. (*Experience*).

4. Bodies representing the DCSF

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4.1.1. The DCSF will have a president to represent the DCSF.

4.1.2. The DCSF will have a secretariat to coordinate the DCSF.

4.1.3. The DCSF will have a steering committee.

5. Structure of the DCSF

The DCSF will form thematic working groups.