



**PLATFORMAMA**  
The European voice of Local and  
Regional authorities for development



## **Fourth PLATFORMAMA Seminar**

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### **Development cooperation in the post-2004 EU member States: The role of local and regional authorities**

Bucharest, 12 March 2010

**Increase citizens' awareness on the commitments taken by Central European States in development cooperation, and on the role local and regional authorities can play in this regard.** This is the main message given by the mayor of the Second District of Bucharest, Neculai Ontanu, on behalf of PLATFORMAMA, the European Platform of Local and Regional Authorities for Development, which met in Bucharest on 12 March 2010.

Bringing together the main associations of European local/regional authorities, PLATFORMAMA aims to promote and gain recognition on the European scene for the role of local/regional authorities in international cooperation. Its fourth seminar held on 12 March focused on **“Development cooperation in the EU member States since 2004: the role of local and regional authorities”**.

This is often a relatively new activity for local/regional authorities from Central and Eastern Europe, where States are already considered as contributors to public development aid, and they have a major role to play in raising citizens' awareness around this issue.

Valentin Băcanu, Vice-mayor of Slobozia municipality in Romania, underlined the experience of cooperation that local/regional authorities from Central and Eastern Europe often have with their counterparts in Moldova, Ukraine or Georgia. In addition to Mr Băcanu, representatives from Romanian, Latvian and Estonian local/regional authorities raised the issue of a diverse perception of what development cooperation can be, and called the European Commission to build bridges between its development policy and its neighbouring policy.

Civil society organisations have proved to be strong and experienced actors in raising citizens' awareness in Central and Eastern Europe and opening them up to the world challenges. As recalled by Ionut Sibian, Director of the Romanian NGO FDSC, and Andra Tanase, Capacity Building Officer at TRIALOG, civil society is a good ally for local/regional authorities – the political level closest to citizens – in their quest to engage in development education initiatives at local level.

### **Background information**

The Bucharest seminar was the fourth meeting of PLATFORMAMA. Previous seminars took place in Brussels, Marseille and Lyon. The next meeting will be held in La Rabida, Andalusia on 26 May 2010, and will focus on decentralised cooperation and climate change.

PLATFORMAMA is composed of European and international associations of local/regional authorities, national associations and cities. Their goal is to speak with one voice to the European institutions in the field of development cooperation and to exchange information and experiences.

Platforma has been co-funded by the European Commission for its activities since 2009.

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