

## Networking Conference “Dialogue for the Future 2020”

We would like to **invite you** as a representative of your organization to our annual WECHANGE networking conference “Dialogue for the Future 2020”. The conference takes place in **Berlin on 27<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> of September** and brings together civil society actors from the Eastern Partnership countries as Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine and France, Germany, Poland, Russia.

**The Federal Foreign Office as the sponsor of the conference** intends to not just support individual exchange projects by civil society members, but also wants to initiate networking and attract new members to this network of organizations. Topics like urbanism and mobility, climate activism, sustainability in all possible facets (economically, ecologically, organizationally) will be discussed during the conference. Dialogue for the Future 2020” provides a forum for ideas and exchange with civil society actors and experts in the area of sustainability and digitalization and the possibility to meet German government officials and diplomats.

**When:** 27th - 30th of September 2020

**Where:** Berlin, bUm (space for the committed civil society)

**Who:** NGOs and civil society initiatives from the Eastern Partnership Countries, France, Germany, Poland and Russia.

The conference is organized by WECHANGE and supported by the German Federal Foreign Office (FFO) in the framework of the programme [“Expanding Cooperation with Civil Society in the Eastern Partnership Countries and Russia”](#).

### Objectives of the conference

1. Presenting the exchange programme for NGOs by the German Federal Foreign Office and to encourage project applications.
2. Providing a room for networking and discussing future project ideas.
3. Sharing knowledge and best practices on the topic’s digitalization and local engagement in the framework of the SDGs.
4. Having an open dialogue with German authority representatives and digitalization experts.

[The Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#) provide the framework for the conference. The SDGs are a central piece of an ideal multilateralism of pluralistic modern societies and our suggestion is to implement it into international exchanges. The conference introduces sustainable and local engagement in cities and regions, and we focus on a wider selection of the 17 SDGs in shaping **our five main topics**:

- Digital competencies for stronger local communities,
- Online and offline climate activism,
- Conscious consumerism and production
- Urbanism and mobility,
- Digital nonformal education and art.

**Target group:** NGOs or initiatives from the Eastern Partnership (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine) and France, Germany, Poland, Russia, which are working or are interested in the conference topics mentioned above and which are thinking about an exchange project together. The participants must be at least 18 years old.

### **Draft of the conference programme:**

*Please note! Due to Covid-19 our conference might change to a Hybrid or fully Online conference in the next weeks. That means that these time slots are not fixed.*

#### **Arrival Day, 27.09.2020**

**09:00 – 17:00** Transfer to the hotel, hotel check-in

**15:00 – 17:00** Walking tour in Berlin

**17:30 – 19:00** Registration and get together

**19:00 – 22:00** Dinner and networking

#### **Day 1, 28.09.2020**

**08:00 – 08:50** Registration

**09:00 – 09:15** Introduction

**09:15 – 09:45** Keynote Federal Foreign Office, WECHANGE and partners

**09:45 – 10:00** Conference info: programme, rules, logistics

**10:00 – 11:00** Presentation of the SDGs

**11:00 – 11:30** Coffee break

**11:30 – 12:00** Group networking activity

**12:00 – 13:00** Presentation of the FFO Funding programme

**13:00 – 14:00** Lunch

**14:00 – 15:30** Digitalization: How to collaborate effectively in your NGO - presentation

**15:30 – 16:00** Coffee break

**16:00 – 17:30** SDG Forum – best practices from the NGO area

**17:30 – 18:00** Wrap up session

**19:00 – 22:00** Dinner & Networking

#### **Day 2, 29.09.2020**

**8:00 – 8:50** Travel costs reimbursement

**09:00 – 09:30** Introduction of the day programme

**09:30 – 11:00** 6 workshops on the conference topics (slot A)

**11:00 – 11:30** Coffee break

<b>11:30 – 13:00</b>	Space for brainstorming
<b>13:00 – 14:00</b>	Lunch
<b>14:00 – 15:30</b>	6 workshops on the conference topics (slot B)
<b>15:30 – 16:00</b>	Coffee break
<b>16:00 – 17:30</b>	Space for brainstorming
<b>17:30 – 18:00</b>	Wrap-up session
<b>19:00 – 22:00</b>	Dinner and networking

**Day 3, 30.09.2020**

<b>08:00 – 08:50</b>	Travel reimbursement
<b>09:00 – 09:30</b>	Introduction
<b>09:30 – 11:00</b>	6 workshops on the conference topics (slot C)
<b>11:00 – 11:30</b>	Coffee break
<b>11:30 – 13:00</b>	Space for brainstorming
<b>13:00 – 14:00</b>	Lunch & Reimbursement
<b>14:00 – 15:00</b>	Travel to the FFO
<b>15:00 – 15:15</b>	Keynote German FFO representatives
<b>15:15 – 15:45</b>	Presentation of three best projects in FFO
<b>15:45 – 16:00</b>	Q&A Slot A
<b>16:00 – 16:15</b>	Q&A Slot B
<b>16:15 – 16:30</b>	Q&A Slot C
<b>16:30 – 17:00</b>	Coffee break
<b>17:00 – 18:00</b>	Feedback session
<b>19:00 – 22:00</b>	Farewell dinner

**Departure Day, 01.10.2020**

<b>07:00 – 11:00</b>	Breakfast in hotels
<b>11:30 – 13:30</b>	Walking tour in Berlin
<b>12:00</b>	Hotel check-out, transfer to the airport

**Selection process:** Due to the high level of interest and the limited places available (150), we have decided to implement a selection process for the conference. Unfortunately, we cannot accept all organizations. The selection of organizations is made in accordance with criteria agreed with the German Federal Foreign Office.

Only one participant per organization will be selected. As one of the main goals of the event is civil society matchmaking between East and West of Europe, the half of the organizations or individuals will come from France, Germany, Poland and the other half from Eastern Partnership countries and Russia. Organizations which have experience with the German Federal Foreign Office programme, as well as those which are not familiar with it, will participate. We will focus on organizations representing the main topics of the conference during the selection process, but we do not exclude organizations from other areas.

**Conditions:** The working language is English. Accommodation and food are provided; travel costs are covered by WECHANGE.

**Covid-19 information:** Due to the complicated world situation, it is difficult to make long term plans, when it comes to the big international networking conference. Therefore, we do not exclude the possibility of changing the format of the conference to partly or fully online. We will communicate all possible changes with you and promise to make everything possible to maintain your safety and health.

**Please fill out [this form](#), until the 21<sup>st</sup> of June 23:59 (CET).**

We will let you know if you have been selected by the 27<sup>th</sup> of June. Please do not book any tickets yet!

Further details will be published after the application process. If you have any other questions, we are here for you: [conference@wechange.de](mailto:conference@wechange.de).

We are looking forward to your applications!  
Your WECHANGE Team