



***BSUN Think-Thank Workshop on:***

**The Impact and the Opportunities Offered by the  
Information and Communication Technologies and Social  
Networks on the Structuring of Civil Society**

***PROGRAM***

Date: 25<sup>th</sup> of September, 2013

Place: "I.G. Duca" Hall, Palace of the Parliament, Bucharest, Romania

***10.00 – 11.00 – Opening remarks***

***Keynote Speakers:***

1. Mr. Valeriu ZGONEA, President of the Chamber of Deputies, Romanian Parliament
2. Mr. Mihnea COSTOIU, Minister for Higher Education, Scientific Research and Technological Development
3. Mr. Dan NICA, Minister for Communication and Information Society
4. Dr. Ismail SAFI, Head of the Turkish Delegation to PABSEC
5. Mr. Marian VASILIEV, Member of the Romanian PABSEC Delegation
6. Mr. Ionut VULPESCU, Vice-Chairman of the PABSEC Committee of Cultural, Educational and Social Affairs
7. Acad. Jorgaq KACANI, BSUN President, Albania

Group Photo, Press Conference

***11.00 – 11.30 – Coffee Break***

***11.30 – 13.00 – Session 1: The Civil Society in the Digital Era***



**Section chair:** Prof. Ion DUMITRACHE, “Politehnica” University of Bucharest

**Keynote Speakers:**

W. Bradley HOLTZ, COB, Center for Understanding Change, USA

Prof. Adrian GHEORGHE, Old Dominion University, USA

Dr. Radu ENACHE, Country Manager, HP Romania

**Discussions**

**13.00 – 14.30 – Lunch Break**

**14.30 – 16.00 – Session 2: Reinventing the Civil society**

**Section chair:** Dr. Ismail SAFI, Head of PABSEC Delegation of Turkey

**Keynote Speakers:**

Hikmet EREN, Chief Editor, EkoAvrasya Journal, Turkey

Cristian Tudor POPESCU, Journalist, Romania

Dr. Akkan SUVER, The Marmara Group, Turkey

**Discussions**

**16.00 – 16.30 – Coffee Break**

**16.30 – 18.00 – Session 3: Education at the Crossroad**

**Section chair:** Acad. Jorgaq KACANI, Black Sea Universities Network

**Keynote Speakers:**

Dr. Traian IONESCU, SIVCO Romania

Dr. Ionut PURICA, “Politehnica” University of Bucharest, Romania

Dan BARBULESCU, Active Soft, Romania

Dr. Camelia CRISAN, Biblionet, Romania

**Discussions**

**18.00 – 18.30 - Closure Session & Conclusions**



## ***The Concept of Think-Thank Workshop***

### ***Background:***

Among different trends that might be observed in the evolution of the society, many experts are pointing on the new trend in structuring the behavioral patterns in the society based on the breakthroughs in the field of Information and Communication Technologies and almost a “new science” which is dealing with the patterning and information transmission within the social networks. The percolation of this trend from specialized forums to network marketing, scientific communities, student’s clubs, consultancy and advisory services, corps of voluntaries to political, apolitical and anarchist communities is absolutely fascinating.

The scientific models, observations and explanations are lagging behind of the real life achievements in this field and due to this reason there is a “cloud of folklore” around these issues. Both on individual scale and at community scales there are some obvious consequences which may be observed without any effort. There are more and more persons addicted to their internet connection and there are more and more communities that are emerging, developed and exist only based on virtual connections and communication.

One of the developments that are relevant from the point of view of higher education is the movement towards massive online open courses (MOOC) which is not a simple technology development for teaching but is a fundamental reengineering of the relation between the professor and the students, opening the teaching process towards the real life from the so called “ivory tower” or “Castalia” towards “colloquial life”, by the integration of the experiences of experts and people working in the subject matter areas and sharing their real life feedbacks.

Form a different perspective, the same transformation might be observed from the point of view of civil society which basically is aggregating the communities around values like humanism, care, voluntarism and active involvement. The new achievements in the field of ICT and social networks have already reoriented and restructured the civil society. Just as an example, in one of the recent polls published in the news it is mentioned that in Romania the teenagers, in a share of 70%, are more willing to express their opinions within the virtual communities instead of participating to real actions and expressing their opinions in public.

### ***Aim:***

The event is intended to gather representatives from the civil society, Academia, mass media, experts, scholars and students for discussions, debates and expressions of opinions on the current trends and consequences of ICT and social networks on the structuring and functioning of the civil society.



***Topics for discussion:***

- Current status and future trends in the area of ICT and Future Internet;
- European Digital Agenda 2020;
- Basic laws and processes within social networks;
- The relation between public and private information;
- Virtualization of the individuals;
- Connectivity and information exchange within the virtual space;
- The balance between regulation and non-regulation within virtual networks;
- The relation between Freedom of Expression, Cyber Security and Privacy;
- The connectivity between education and civil society;

***Organizing institutions:***

- Black Sea Universities Network
- Forum of the Civil Society from the Black Sea and Caspian Sea Region
- Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation
- United Nations “Academic Impact” Initiative

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