

CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL DEMOCRACY FLOROZON

STRATEGIC PLAN 2020-2024



WHO WE ARE:

Centre for Environmental Democracy - FLOROZON, founded in 2005, is a non-governmental, non-profit and independent organization working on the promotion and protection of citizens' access rights, environmental democracy and poverty reduction. Furthermore, it actively works on the promotion of human health rights, safer environment and the improvement of quality of life both on domestic level and international level. The operations of CED Florozon also encompass other areas that are connected to the environment such as agriculture, rural development human wellbeing and health.

Our mission: To work on the development of environmental democracy and to advocate environmental policy reform.

Our objectives:

- To protect citizens' interests related to environmental rights (access to information, participation and access to justice);
- To promote environmental democracy;
- To strengthen the rule of law in environmental matters;
- To promote sustainable development in the environment, the agro-food sector and the overall economy.

OUR SPECIFIC CONTRIBUTION TO CHANGE

At CED Florozon, our identity is constituted by:

- Our diverse membership, with a strong presence in the Balkan and pan-European region;
- Our clear mandate to defend fundamental civic rights and to promote environmental democracy;
- Our focus on strengthening citizens' action and civil society in general, with an inter-sectorial and inter-institutional cooperation based on multidisciplinary approach;
- Our commitment to standing in solidarity with actors across civil society.

OUR WORK AT CED FLOROZONE IS GUIDED BY THESE VALUES AND PRINCIPLES:

- We believe in justice and dignity for all, while placing the most vulnerable first;
- We believe that people and their organizations can change the world if working together;
- We stand for a strong, independent and progressive civil society;
- We strive towards accountability, diversity and inclusion;
- We are committed to global solidarity and believe in building from within and beyond borders;
- We seek systems change to tackle the universal and inter-related nature of the world's most pressing challenges such as environment, climate changes and democracy principles violation.

STRATEGIC PLAN CONSULTATION

CED Florozon listened to numerous stakeholders through surveys, consultations, collaborations and conversations to get their views on what CED Florozon's strategic priorities for the next four years should be. We talked to members of the organization, local, regional and international civil society organizations and networks, social movements and activists, international organizations, not least with the central and local government representatives.

The important feedback we got, complemented by the research and analysis from CED Florozon, led us to better understanding of current state of affairs. The most important threats that require global addressing are the following: inequality, sustainability, environment and climate change. Our strategic plan is in direction of acting upon these three primarily, among others.

The greatest issues facing humanity are:

- Degradation of the environment;
- Climate change;
- Violation of the fundamental human rights and civic freedoms;
- Inequality, poverty and democracy crisis.

The role of civil society in addressing these issues is to demand visible actions, accountability, unite and mobilize, and to be transparent and inclusive.

The best support CED Florozon can give to civil society is through:

- Strengthening the capacities;
- Cooperation, partnership and networking with the civil society;
- Mobilize resources for civil society;
- Inspire, motivate and support local civic initiatives.

SOCIETY CLEAVAGES AND THE THREATS OF TODAY AND TOMORROW – A SYMBIOTIC RELATIONSHIP

The deepening society cleavages have brought about violation of fundamental human rights and civic freedoms, thus increasing the poverty percentage and inequality ratio. This has overall impact over democratic principles, therefore imposing the need of connecting the civil society, strengthening its capacities and motivate the actions of citizens. Moreover, phenomena such as the climate change have most impact on the agro-food sector and thereby on the overall economy. Furthermore, this negative impact will predominantly affect the vulnerable and marginalized groups due to their existential dependence on this sector. The scientific facts that so clearly state the challenges that come along with climate change make it obvious that in order for future generations to enjoy what we have enjoyed, we must think through the prism of sustainability. Thus the actions of CED Florozon within the four following years will be conducted in light of promotion of sustainable development.

COURSE OF ACTIONS

- *Worsening conditions for peace and security on a global level*

United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development calls upon Peace, Security and Strong institutions in the 16th goal. The UN has recognized the need of action in this sense. Florozon has been working on this in the past, and will continue to do so in the future, as it is clear that active civil society requires strong and secure institutions.

- *Environment*

The degradation of the environment is the one of the most pressing issues of our time that demand constant attention and serious approach supported by strong governmental policy commitments. Moreover, civil society should hold its position of watch dog and public awareness agent pushing for permanent policy implementation and reforms on all societal levels. In this sense, CED Florozon will continue to advocate for transposition of EUs environmental legal framework, accompanied with strong monitoring of the implementation, based on participatory approach.

- *Climate change*

As recent events have showed the negative consequences of climate change, and the expected future impact over the entire planet and all species, global action is the only way to climate adaptation. Florozon's work is focused in this regard in terms of raising awareness of the need for adaptation, especially when it comes to one of the most vulnerable sectors – the agro-sector. Nonetheless, CED Florozon in cooperation with all relevant academia representatives will strive towards enabling implementable mechanisms for mitigation of the negative effects of the climate change, thereby to give a contribution in the preservation of the stability of the national economy.

- *Violation of human rights and civic freedoms*

One of the universal human right is the right to life and life in the healthy environment. Environmental pollution imposes risk to the well-being of the population and the public health safety and expenditures. It is important to keep the citizens informed about their rights through the right of access to information, inclusion in the decision-making processes and access to environmental justice.

- *Inequality, poverty and democracy crisis*

The most vulnerable groups are most affected by the global threats, which is why CED Florozon aims to act in reduction of poverty by stimulating green economy and sustainable development, thus reinventing participatory practices and directly affecting the crisis of democracy. The innovative forms of citizen's action and participation is what the future of democracy should be, as the challenges now are much different than the challenges before and as such require different approach in order to reach a solution.

The three pillars of this plan in direction of activities tackling the most prominent global challenges are the following:

1. Analysis of the existing policies and assessment of needs
2. Advocacy, lobbying and capacity building
3. Information dissemination and public relations

The following strategic goals reflect our belief that people-centered and collective action is at the core of transformative change. They are built based on the assessment that CED Florozon will address the democratic deficit and improve civil society practice through support of local civic initiatives.

Strategic goal 1: Defending the human rights and civic freedoms, thereby acting upon the firmness of the democratic values

CED Florozon will continue defending the fundamental human rights and civic freedoms, especially in areas where it is needed the most, in the sense of a healthy environment, well-being and stability. The team will track international trends, adapting them to the specific situation and promote the pillars of the Aarhus Convention: access to information, public participation and access to justice. In addition, we will work on support for human rights defenders, creating an enabling and safe environment. We will ensure that the people have the opportunities and tools for full, effective, efficient and innovative participation in the crucial decision-making processes that affect them the most.

Strategic goal 2: Strengthening the capacities of civil society thus enabling the people, especially the locals, to take action, building upon the principles of accountability and effectiveness

We will work on building up the power of citizens for collective action to work towards more inclusive, just and above all – sustainable world. We will work in harmony with other activists that have the same goals – to improve the quality of life and health standards in regards to environment and sustainability. The low level of trust in the organizations and institutions will be increased, by empowering accountability and transparency through “lead by an example” principle. Once the level of trust in institutions and organizations will be on a satisfactory level – the enthusiasm for making a change and influencing the policy making process will be returned and hopefully even increased.

Strategic goal 3: *Contribute towards adaptation and successful mitigation of climate change consequences*

The global warming and climate change phenomena are scientifically proven to be true and thus require to be acted upon. Many governments have committed to taking measures in acting on climate change, however significant additional efforts are needed if we would like the future generations to live on planet Earth. We will monitor such commitments made by the relevant institutions, request access to information in environmental regards and will seek to commonly promote the two most important things: Mitigation and Adaptation.

IS SUCCESS MEASURABLE? HOW WILL WE DO IT?

CED Florozon will invest in innovative monitoring, evaluating and learning framework designed to lead by example and simultaneously provide truthful and realistic feedback on the conducted actions. This will serve in both accountability and learning processes, to show us the success and failures and the level of societal impact. This evaluation design will be addressing each strategic goal individually, but also the overall impact of the organization and synchronization of all strategic goals with the general vision and mission.

Strategic goal 1: *Defending the human rights and civic freedoms, thereby acting upon the firmness of the democratic values*

- Increased level of awareness of human rights and responsibilities *vis-à-vis* environmental protection
- Familiarity with legal aid mechanisms at disposal in *lieu* with the international standards
- Improved quality and quantity of available data and reports on environmental matters
- Greater participation and involvement of civil society in decision-making processes at all levels

Strategic goal 2: *Strengthening the capacities of civil society thus enabling the people, especially the locals, to take action, building upon the principles of accountability and effectiveness*

- Promotion of transparency and accountability through our own practice
- Increased monitoring mechanisms of the civil society
- Improvement of level of trust between the governmental and NGO sector
- Strengthened capacities for collective action and enabled meaningful opportunities

Strategic goal 3: *Contribute towards adaptation and successful mitigation of climate change consequences*

- Promoted climate adaptation measures
- Better implementation of environmental preservation commitments and promoting the prism of sustainability as a habit to key stakeholders
- Enabled possibilities to catalyze global change through local action
- Increased awareness of importance of climate change consequences mitigation

As a final step, the organization will summarize each of the aforementioned success measurements together with the overall mission of the organization and compare the four year's results with the organizations' objectives.