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## **Civil Society and Solidarity in Times of Crisis. Addressing the Challenges of the Romanian and European Political Crisis Bucharest, June 17, 2014**

The results of the 2014 Elections for the European Parliament, and, implicitly, the rise of the populist and euro-skeptical parties in the EU, changed the paradigm for the European civil society to express itself. After having been, for six years now, in a process of transformation favored by the political crisis that many of the European Union's Member States faced, the European civil society finds itself at a moment of redefining its role and its approach.

In this context, the National Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux (NACAB) Romania, has the pleasure of inviting to you take part in the **“Civil Society and Solidarity in Times of Crisis. Addressing the Challenges of the Romanian and European Political Crisis”** international conference, which will be held Tuesday, June 17, starting 10.30 o'clock.

Departing from the assumption that the political crisis that affected many of the EU Member States constitutes both a challenge and an opportunity for the civil society, NACAB aims to create the favorable setting for citizens, NGO and media representatives to identify means to solidary respond to provoking issues of their society, from poverty and social exclusion to human rights. Benefitting from the insights offered by representatives of Romanian and European nongovernmental organizations, the **“Civil Society and Solidarity in Times of Crisis. Addressing the Challenges of the Romanian and European Political Crisis”** international conference raises the following questions:

- What lessons can the civil society draw from the solidarity movements that emerged in EU Members States in the last four years?
- What effects does the “new European order” have for the civil society and how can the citizens, the media and the nongovernmental organizations address them?

Based on the conference results, a set of recommendations will be made to political and a-political stakeholders to facilitate mutual communication and citizen participation.

The conference working languages are English and Romanian. Translation available. Please see below the complete Conference Agenda.

We look forward to welcoming you at the **“Civil Society and Solidarity in Times of Crisis. Addressing the Challenges of the Romanian and European Political Crisis”** conference. Please, confirm your participation by e-mail, at [anbcc@robcc.ro](mailto:anbcc@robcc.ro), or by phone, at 021.313.40.06, by Friday, June 13. Contact person: Alina Iosifescu, PR Officer NACAB.





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| <b>10.00 – 10.30</b> | <b>Welcoming Coffee</b>  |
| <b>10.30 – 10.45</b> | <b>Political Crisis, an Impetus for Civil Society Solidarity</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Alina Iosifescu, the National Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux (NACAB), Romania</li> </ul>   |
| <b>10.45 – 12.00</b> | <b>Solidarity and Political Crisis in Europe. <i>A Glimpse at the Experiences of Albania, Belgium, Cyprus and Italy</i></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Mariano Votta, Active Citizenship Network, Italy</li> <li>○ Blerina Guga – Partners Albania, Albania</li> <li>○ Elisa Bruno – ECAS (European Citizen Action Service), Belgium</li> <li>○ Savvas Charlambous – NGO Support Centre, Cyprus</li> </ul> |
| <b>12.00 – 12.30</b> | <b>Coffee break</b>  |
| <b>12.30 – 13.00</b> | <b>The (New) Media Echoes of Solidarity,</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>Oana Popescu, Global Focus</i></li> </ul>   |
| <b>13.00 – 14.00</b> | <b>Opportunities for Enhanced Civil Society Solidarity in Times of Crisis</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>Oana Băluțescu, Europe for citizens contact point in RO</i></li> </ul>   |
| <b>14.00 – 15.30</b> | <b>Networking lunch</b>  |
| <b>15.30 – 16.00</b> | <b>Political Crisis and the Rise of a Solidary Citizenry</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Florina Presada, Resource Center for Public Participation, Romania</li> </ul>  |
| <b>16.00-16.30</b>   | <b>Discussions and Concluding Remarks</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Ioan Tanase the National Association of Citizens Advice Bureux (NACAB), Romania</li> </ul>  |

The “**Civil Society and Solidarity in Times of Crisis. Addressing the Challenges of the Romanian and European Political Crisis**” international conference is part of the “Joint Citizen Action for a Stronger, Citizen-Friendly Union” (JoiEU) project, which focuses on coordinating debate and action in 13 European countries on a set of issues focused on citizen participation and strengthening the citizen base of a deeper European integration. The project is funded by the European Union and implemented by a group of international partners led by ProInfo (Bulgaria).

