



CALL FOR PARTICIPATION

6th International Black Sea Symposium

on

*“Empowering Civil Society in the Black Sea region:
a tool for Innovative Social Change”*

Athens, Greece

4 – 6 July 2013

In its sixth year, the International Black Sea Symposium (IBSS) project builds on the success and positive impact of its previous five editions and brings together the next generation of stakeholders with an interest in the Black Sea area. The **6th International Black Sea Symposium on “Empowering Civil Society in the Black Sea region: a tool for Innovative Social Change”** will be held in **Athens, Greece, from 4 to 6 July 2013**. The IBSS will welcome young professionals and international experts, for an intensive course on Black Sea issues. The event’s working language will be English.

More about the 6th IBSS

This year’s Symposium introduces a new dimension, the *civil society*, as a key element to economic growth, sustainable development and social change.

In this context, this year’s Symposium will focus on the following specific topics:

- Mapping social innovation in the EU

Good EU practices on social innovation will be presented giving emphasis on sharing experiences and learning from each other. Participants will have the chance to learn the emerging trends, as well as, the existing funding initiatives and tools.

- Development of human capital and empowerment of civil society in the Black Sea Region

The empowerment of certain social groups (e.g. youth, women etc.) is crucial in the rapidly changing economic and political landscape of the wider Black Sea Region. This topic will examine ways of developing civil society’s role aiming at a healthy and sustainable development of the Black Sea countries.

- Challenges and opportunities for social innovation in the Black Sea

Experts will be called to share their experience on existing opportunities and key challenges related to social innovation practices. Reference will be made on Social Entrepreneurship, Enterprise and Economy and the way these terms can bring social transformation.

- The role of Black Sea NGO Regional Networks

Speakers will also highlight the role of NGOs and the development of regional networks as an opportunity for establishing a platform of dialogue and cooperation, aiming at working complementary and achieving positive results on the social and economic environment of the Black Sea region.

In this regard, we invite **young professionals** (22-35 years old), such as policy-makers, journalists, diplomats, Members of Parliament, entrepreneurs, civil society leaders and researchers (post docs and PhD candidates) of different backgrounds with expertise in these fields from around the world, to discuss, to exchange views and enhance the dialogue on empowering civil society and bringing social change in the Black Sea. The three-day intensive course will consist of interactive sessions, with related reading material provided.

How to get involved

Young professionals with proficiency in English are welcome to apply until **31 May 2013**. Registration Fees for participants will be 150 €. Accommodation, breakfast and one meal per day will be offered by the organizers. For more information on the application process please see the [application form](#). All applicants should send their filled application form by e-mail to icbss@icbss.org or by fax to +30 210 324 2244.

Looking forward to seeing you in Athens!