

An open European civil society platform



CIVIM+

Together for conflict resolution in Donbas

CivilM+ Together for conflict resolution in Donbas

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In the framework of the project "The dialogue for law and understanding: European NGOs together for conflict resolution in Donbas"

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Auswärtiges Amt

Why was CivilM+ created?

Lasting for five years and with no resolution in sight, the armed conflict in Eastern Ukraine has become a challenge for the whole of Europe. To agree a ceasefire or implement a lasting peace agreement, political will is needed on both the national and international levels.

The longer the conflict lasts, the greater the alienation between people who once shared the same neighbourhoods and the slimmer the prospects for reconciliation. The lack of trust and of a feasible action plan makes citizens frustrated and indifferent to the political process. In such conditions it becomes easy to manipulate social consciousness, triggering a spiral of radicalisation which leads to further fragmentation of society.

Public dialogue on the possibilities for ending violence and reintegrating the Donbas as a peaceful region inside a democratic Ukraine and Europe is an important prerequisite not only for the restoration of justice and peace, but also for building a democratic society.

Since 2014, many civic organizations and initiatives from Ukraine, Russia and other European countries have been working on issues related to the conflict in the Donbas. The accumulated experience, knowledge and understanding of the situation on the ground is of great value – both for a political settlement and for involving the societies covered by the conflict in the process of overcoming it.

The CivilM+ international platform was created to build trust and cooperation between civil organizations and initiatives working on Donbas topics from different countries and with different perspectives. The platform's goal is to strengthen the role of civil society in the conflict resolution process in eastern Ukraine.

Mission and vision

CivilM+ is an independent international civil society platform, which mission is to active integration of civil initiatives to restore the Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts as peaceful, integrated and developed regions as part of a democratic Ukraine and a united European space, with the active participation of the region's population and those who have left the region due to the conflict.

The CivilM+ platform offers its participants the opportunity to collaborate as part of joint initiatives and projects, to develop and express joint positions, provide mutual support and solidarity, systematise knowledge, raise levels of qualification and improve coordination.

Platform CivilM + was launched in December 2017 thanks to the joint effort of the civil society representatives from Ukraine, Russia, Germany and France. The main tasks of the platform include the following:

- » the widening of trust and cooperation between the civil societies of various countries and between differing spheres of activity,
- » the monitoring, observation and documentation of human rights violations, hate crimes and war crimes,
- » the implementation of civilian accompaniment of official peace negotiations and strengthening of the influence of civil society on them,
- » the engagement of the region's citizens in the region's recovery, including those who left the region because of the conflict and the introduction of the principles of transitional justice,
- » the protection of victims of human rights violations and assistance in holding violators of such rights on all sides of the conflict accountable,

- » the engagement of citizens living in the conflict zone, in other regions of Ukraine, in Russia and in other countries in a process of dialogues, aimed at managing the conflict and its consequences, including using the methods of people's diplomacy,
- » the involvement of internally displaced people and the population of the regions of the Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts not controlled by the Ukrainian government in civilian activity, as well as reintegrating them into Ukrainian society,
- » informing the public about the conflict in Donbas on a local, national and international level and cooperation with the media,
- » the development of communication and collaboration of civil society institutes with regional and international institutions from the spheres of state, economy, education and others,
- » aiding the transparency of regulatory processes of the conflict,
- » acting against disinformation and hate speech,
- » supporting projects, programmes and events connected with various aspects of the platform's activity,
- » the organisation of educational and informational events, projects and programmes, aimed at strengthening civil organisations, taking part in the resolution of the conflict in Donbas and facilitating the realisation of the above tasks.

CivilM+ Structure



Thematic activity areas of CivilM+ in 2018–2020

Conflict mapping

1



Systematisation of knowledge about actors of the conflict, including understanding of causal relations, which influence its dynamics, and development of strategies for cooperation with political and social stakeholders in various countries.

Creation of conditions for interaction between groups of population affected by the conflict, through development of a civic activism in the region of conflict and involvement of local activists in cooperation on national and international levels.



2 Integration and dialogue

Support to international peace negotiations

3



Development of a joint vision of measures which can constructively influence peaceful transformation of the conflict, and of recommendations for participants of international negotiations.

Preparation of the grounds for objective and impartial work on causes, processes and consequences of the conflict, including legal, socioeconomic and historical aspects.



4 Transitional justice

Information and advocacy work

5



Dissemination of verified and balanced information about the processes related to the conflict in the Eastern Ukraine for the audiences in different countries of Europe and on international level, and involvement of decision makers in European countries in the process of conflict resolution in Donbas.

Participants of the Platform

Currently 14 civil society organisations are members of CivilM+ Platform – seven Ukrainian, three Russian, two French, one German and one Polish.



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1. Luhansk oblast human rights center "Alternativa" (Ukraine)
 2. Helsinki Citizens' Assembly (France)
 3. Country of Free People (Ukraine)
 4. Ukrainian Helsinki human rights union (Ukraine)
 5. Foundation "Don Women" (Russia)
 6. Center of Civil Liberties (Ukraine)
 7. Kharkiv human rights group (Ukraine)
 8. Human rights center "Memorial" (Russia)
 9. Center of civic initiatives "Ideas of Change" (Ukraine)
 10. Citizen and Army (Russia)
 11. Ukraine action (France)
 12. Deutsch-Russischer Austausch – DRA e.V. (Germany)
 13. Truth Hounds (Ukraine)
 14. Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights (Poland)

How to become a participant of the Platform?

Participants of the Platform can be independent, non-governmental organisations and initiatives (including those with and without the status of legal entities), as well as individual experts in Ukraine, Russia or on an international level/in different countries, who:

- » regularly and intentionally work on topics associated with the mission and activity of the Platform,
- » agree with the values and principles of the work of the Platform, as laid out in the Protocol and current Statute of Principles and Structure.

To become a member of the platform an organisation, or an expert shall sign Memoranda and Rules and Statute of Principles and Structure and receive recommendation of no less than two active participants of the Platform (organisation, or expert) which represent different country groups.

If you are interested to participate in the platform, please write to info@CIVILMPLUS.ORG and the secretariat will provide you with more detailed information.

Contact us



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