

**25 years of commitment, dedication and engagement**

**10 years of decentralized cooperation**

**Program – dd 13/10/2015**

**5<sup>th</sup> Forum Decentralized Cooperation Romania Belgium**

**November 5-7 2015, Iasi, Romania**

**Organized by**

**The City of Iasi (Romania)**

**The Romanian Embassy in Belgium**

**The Belgian Embassy in Romania**

**Actie Dorpen Roemenië Vlaanderen**

**Opération Villages Roumains Wallonie-Bruxelles**

**Agentia pentru Dezvoltare Regionala Nord-Est**

**The Open Network for community development**



**5<sup>th</sup> Forum on decentralized cooperation  
Belgium – Romania  
Iasi, Romania 05-07 November 2015.**

Time	THURSDAY NOVEMBER 5 2015	See
10:00-12:00	Historical Round Table about 175 years of diplomatic relations between Romania and Belgium <i>Venue: Room H.1, Building H, University Alexandru Ioan Cuza</i>	F1
13:00-14:30	Informal start of plenum on economical collaboration - Visit to an industrial park in Iasi	F2
14:30-15:30	Opening exhibition comic strip Nero in Romania <i>Venue: Palace of Cultures (Palatul Culturii)</i>	F3
15:20 -	Registration of participants Forum <i>Venue: Congress Hall Iasi (near Rossini Room of Congress Hall)</i>	
15:30-19:15	Business Round Table <i>Venue: Rossini Room - Congress Hall Iasi</i>	F4
19:30-...	Official opening of 5 <sup>th</sup> Forum Decentralized Cooperation Romania Belgium <i>Venue: Opera House Iasi</i>	F5

Time	FRIDAY NOVEMBER 6 2015	See
08:30-09:00	Registration of participants <i>Venue: Congress Hall Iasi (near Rossini Room of Congress Hall)</i>	
09:00-09:15	Practical arrangements Forum <i>Venue: Rossini Room - Congress Hall Iasi</i>	
09:15-10:45	Europe 2020 Strategy and the role of decentralized cooperation	F6
10:45-11:00	Coffee break	
11:00-12:30	The role of local authorities and civil society organizations in implementing the strategic objectives of the European Commission	F7
12:30-13:30	Lunch	
13:30-15:00	First Round Table Workshops <i>Venue: City Hall Iasi</i>	
	Health	F8
	Civil Society – youth movement	F9
	Social economy	F10
	Rural Development – Water projects	F11
	Administrative capacity building	F12
	Parliamentary working group	F13
15:00-15:30	Coffee break	
15:30-17:00	Second Round Table Workshops <i>Venue: City Hall Iasi</i>	
	Health	F8
	Civil Society – adults and elderly organizations	F9
	Social economy	F10
	Rural Development – Local Action Groups	F11
	Fire safety	F14
	Parliamentary working group	F13
19:00-...	Diner	

Time	SATURDAY NOVEMBER 7 2015	See
09:00-12:00	Conclusions of workshops and 2015-2017 agenda <i>Venue: Rossini Room - Congress Hall Iasi</i>	
12:00-14:00	Lunch	
14:00-...	City Visit Iasi	



## 5<sup>th</sup> Forum on decentralized cooperation Belgium – Romania Iasi, Romania 05-07 November 2015.

### General information about 5<sup>th</sup> Forum Decentralized Cooperation Romanian Belgium

The title of the 5<sup>th</sup> Forum Decentralized Cooperation Romania Belgium “25 years of commitment, dedication and engagement; 10 years of decentralized cooperation” clearly underlines the long tradition of collaboration between civil society organizations and public authorities from both countries.

Decentralized cooperation is a supportive partnership between foreign local and regional sub-national organizations. Its main aim is to promote common prosperity and consolidate local development and territorial governance. Decentralized cooperation is considered as any project, initiative, or partnership among at least one Belgian and one Romanian sub-national organization (public authority, semi public, NGO, educational institute...) in order to promote sustainable local and regional development. This definition of decentralized cooperation clearly underlines that decentralized cooperation is not the same as decentralization. Decentralization means the transfer of authority and responsibility for public functions from the central government to subordinate or quasi-independent government organizations and/or the private sector. Different meanings and outcomes will be presented.


During the historical round table on Thursday November 5 2015, the 3 volumes about 175 years of diplomatic relations between Belgium and Romania, written by former Belgian Ambassador in Romania Philippe Beke, will be presented. Also some other lectures will give an insight in this not so very well known common histories between both countries. In the afternoon an exhibition about the famous Belgian comic strip Nero will be opened. This event is followed by the plenum on economic collaboration. During this plenum opportunities will be explored on the economical field. On Friday the Forum starts with some reflections on the Europe 2020 strategy and how this ambitious aims can be localized. Specific attention will go to the regional differences in reaching these goals. Further building on these concepts, umbrella organizations will discuss how local authorities can implement the international and European goals. The ideas developed during the morning plenary sessions will be further explored during the workshops in the afternoon sessions of Friday November 6 2015. To give participants the opportunity to have an in depth discussion during the workshops, each workshop will be held in 2 sessions of 1.5 hour each. But the focus of one session can be different so that a switch workshop is still possible.. Together with these workshops parliament members from both countries will gather to talk about: the relations between parliaments from both countries, the regionalization trend and working programs between both countries. On Saturday November 7 2015 the conclusions will be presented as a 2 year working agenda 2015-2017.

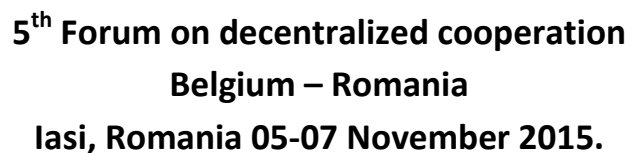
From October 16 2015, a Forum book will be available on the website: <http://www.fobero.eu/>. This book will give more in depth information about the Forum.



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**Practical information about venues**

<p>University Alexandru Ioan Cuza Building H, Room H.1 Bulevardul Carol I nr. 11, Iasi (Historical Round Table 175 years diplomatic relations Belgium Romania, November 5 2015, 10:00-12:00)</p>	
<p>Palace of Cultures (Palatul Culturii) (Opening exhibition Belgian comic strip Nero, November 5 2015, 14:30-15:30)</p>	
<p>Congress Hall Palas Iasi Strada Palas nr. 7A, Iasi (Plenary sessions of Forum, November 5 2015, afternoon; November 6 2015, morning and November 7 2015, morning)</p>	
<p>Opera House Iasi Strada Agatha Bârsescu 18, Iași (Official opening forum, November 5 2015, 19:30-21:30)</p>	
<p>City Hall Iasi Bulevardul Stefan cel Mare si Sfânt nr. 11, Iasi (Workshops November 6 2015, afternoon)</p>	



### HARTĂ LOCALIZARE CONGRESS HALL

The map illustrates the layout of the Palatul Culturii and its surroundings. Key features include:

- CONGRESS HALL ROSSINI - VERDI**: Located on the left side of the map, near Str. Palat.
- CONGRESS HALL MOZART - CHOPIN - VIVALDI**: Located on the right side of the map, near Str. St. Lazar.
- PALATUL CULTURII**: The central building, featuring a large auditorium and a theater.
- TEATRU**: The theater area, located below the main hall.
- CARUSEL VENETIAN**: The Venetian Carousel, located near the center of the map.
- PATINOAR**: The ice skating rink, located near the center of the map.
- Auchan**: The supermarket, located at the bottom of the map.
- Str. Palat**: The street on the left side of the map.
- Str. St. Lazar**: The street on the right side of the map.
- Legend**:
  - acces auto (car icon)
  - acces pietonal (pedestrian icon)
  - centru informational (information icon)
  - lift (lift icon)
  - scara rulanta (stairs icon)






## 5<sup>th</sup> Forum on decentralized cooperation Belgium – Romania Iasi, Romania 05-07 November 2015.

### Additional information about the Forum program

F1 - Historical Round Table about 175 years of diplomatic relations between Romania and Belgium	
Time	November 5 2015, 10:00-12:00
Venue	Room H.1, Building H, University Alexandru Ioan Cuza
<i>Speakers</i>	
10:00-10:05	Introduction by prof. univ. dr. Petronel Zahariuc, dean of Faculty of History
10:05-10:30	Presentations 3 volumes 175 years of diplomatic relations by Ana Iriciuc
10:30-11:00	Lecture by Patrick Van den Nieuwenhof
11:00-11:30	Lecture by Ștefan Popescu
11:30-12:00	Lecture by Florin Cintic
12:00-	Questions and answers

F2 - Visit to an industrial objective in Iasi	
Time	November 5 2015, 13:00-14:30
Venue	More information will be soon available.

F3 - Opening exhibition comic strip Nero in Romania	
Time	November 5 2015, 14:30-15:30 (will stay for 1 month in Iasi)
Venue	Palace of cultures (Palatul Culturii)
<p><i>About the Nero – the comic strip</i></p> <div style="display: flex; align-items: flex-start;">  <div style="margin-left: 20px;"> <p>The Adventures of Nero is a Belgian comic strip drawn by Marc Sleen and the name of its main character. Nero is a Dutch language comic strip which appeared in Belgian newspapers between 1947 and 2002. Originally called The adventures of Detective Van Zwam, it quickly changed its name to The adventures of Nero after a character met by Van Zwam in the first adventure who was locked in an asylum and thought he was emperor Nero. He came quickly to his senses, but the name stuck and everyone referred to him as Nero ever since. An exhibition dedicated to this strip was created in Romanian by the Belgian Embassy in Romania.</p> </div> </div>	



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<b>F4 – Business Round Table</b>	
<i>Time</i>	November 5 2015, 15:30-19:15
<i>Venue</i>	Rossini Room - Congress Hall Iasi
<i>Context</i>	According to the 2014 Foreign Direct Investments in Romania report of the Romanian National Bank and National Institute of Statistics (published at September 30 2015), 3.300 Belgian companies have a share in Romania. Belgium with a investment of 1.281 million euro represents 2,1% of the total amount of direct foreign investments and takes a place in the top 15 of investors in Romania. The same report shows that the North East region is attracting 2,7% of the direct foreign investments and is at the last place of the 8 regions. During this business round table new opportunities can be explored.
<i>Moderator</i>	Gabriela Macoveiu
<i>Topics and speakers</i>	
15:30-15:50	Keynote speech by Vasile Asandei, Director General of North-East RDA Romania Topics: - Financing opportunities under the financial framework of the EU Programs - North-East Regional Development Plan, priorities for business development, including the region's Smart Specialization Strategy - The regional investment context (legal and financial framework)
15:50-16:20	Regional economic hubs - Iași (Municipality of Iași, Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Department of Iași) - Departement of Suceava – Cătălin Nechifor, president
16:20-17:20	Presentations - The role of facilitator of business clubs. Presentations of Vice-president of CAROMB ( <a href="http://www.caromb.eu">www.caromb.eu</a> ) and president of BEROBA ( <a href="http://www.beroba.com">www.beroba.com</a> ) - Acces to structural and cohesion funds by Daniel Rață, Addvances Ltd., Brussels - Linking economy and civil society by ADR Vlaanderen
17:20-17:50	Testimonials (10 min./3) - Erwin Bosmans, Bosmans Carpets - Ivan Lokere, Alianso (Industrial Parc Ploiești-West)
17:50-18:10	Questions and answers
18:10-19:10	Bilateral B2B Meetings and networking



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<b>F5 – Official opening 5<sup>th</sup> Forum</b>	
<i>Time</i>	November 5 2015, 19:30-21:30
<i>Venue</i>	Opera House Iasi
<i>Program</i>	
19:30-20:00	Opening opening by Mayor of Iași (acting), Mihai Chirică Ambassador of Romania, H.E. Mr. Ștefan Tinca Ambassador of Belgium, H.E. Mr. Thomas Baekelandt President of OVR (Operation Villages Roumains Wallonie-Bruxelles), Michel De Backer President of ADR-Vlaanderen (Actie Dorpen Roemenië), Jozef Goebels
20:00-20:30	Concert
20:30-21:30	Reception

<b>F6 – Europe 2020 Strategy and the role of decentralized cooperation</b>	
<i>Time</i>	November 6 2015, 09:15-10:45
<i>Venue</i>	Rossini Room - Congress Hall Iasi
<i>Context</i>	Discussions will focus on the possibilities of utilizing European instruments to the benefit of local communities. Presentation of the regional development objectives of the European Commission will be accompanied by a concrete approach of the current themes of interest for the different regions and the concrete methods of stimulating cooperation initiatives at the local and regional level. The potential of decentralized cooperation for Romania and Belgium will be explored in this framework.
<i>Moderator</i>	Patrick Van den Nieuwenhof
<i>Speakers</i>	
	Romanian Commissioner, Corina Crețu (video message) Member of the Romanian Parliament, Cristina Nichita Representative of the Ministry of Regional Development Secretary General of International Department of Flanders, Koen Verlaeckaert (video message) Deputy of Wallonia-Brussels, Eric Poppe General Director of Agency for Regional Development North East, Vasile Asandei





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**F7 – Role of local authorities and civil society organizations in implementing the strategic objectives of the European Commission**

<i>Time</i>	November 6 2015, 11:00-12:30
<i>Venue</i>	Rossini Room - Congress Hall Iasi
<i>Context</i>	<p>“Think Global, Act Local”</p> <p>Enhancing administrative power and capacity of local authorities in achieving global poverty reduction and social inclusion goals through decentralized cooperation.</p> <p>This plenary session will address the question: how can local authorities and civil society organizations localize these European and global goals? Or how can local governments use these goals as simple as possible. The role of local authorities in the implementation of these goals can not be underestimated, because they have to deliver basic services and resources. In the context of the Forum programs to strengthen the capacity and power of local authorities could be part of a new decentralized cooperation between both countries for implementing, monitoring and financing of poverty reduction and social inclusion goals. After all, effective local governance can ensure social inclusion through developing community based ownership, commitment and engagement. At the end discussions will focus on the need to articulate a durable platform of dialogue between the associations in Romania (UNCJR, AOR, AMR, ACoR) and Belgium (VVSG, UVCW, VVP).</p>
<i>Moderator</i>	Michel De Backer
<i>Speakers</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- President County Council Suceava, Cătălin Ioan Nechifor about the collaboration between the province of Suceava (Romania) and the province of Luxemburg (Belgium)</li> <li>- Representatives from Belgian and Romanian umbrella organization of towns and cities.</li> <li>- President Region Ungheni (Republic of Moldova), Ludmila Guzun</li> </ul>



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<b>F8 – Workshop Health</b>	
<i>Time</i>	November 6 2015, 13:30-15:00 and 15:30-17:00
<i>Venue</i>	City Hall Iasi
<i>Context</i>	<p>“Setting up a qualitative, accessible and affordable healthcare for everyone”</p> <p>Romania faces serious health problems that the healthcare system does not seem to be able to cope with. Poor health indicators such as high morbidity and mortality through tuberculosis, hepatitis B and C, cervical cancer, infant mortality, dramatically dropping of healthy life expectancy place Romania on the last places in Europe with regard to health showing the poor performance of its health system.</p> <p>In addition, citizens from rural communities are even more disadvantaged than those living in towns with regard to healthcare. They have less access to basic health services, lower insurance coverage and worse health outcomes than the ones living in urban areas. Health and social assistance services at grass roots level are in general severely underdeveloped. Doing nothing represents an enormous threat to the health of citizens in rural communities in general and to the chronic patients living in rural areas in particular. This will automatically lead to more expenses as well for the patients as for the state budget.</p>
<i>Moderator</i>	Jozef Goebels and Cristina Vladu
<i>Reporter</i>	
<i>Speakers</i>	
13:30-14:00	Presentation of the Slatina-Timis community health center case study by Ioan Suru, coordinator ADAMSlatina-Timis and Cristina Vladu, health expert The Open Network for community development.
14:00-14:25	Building up dental practices in rural areas by Alex Stoian, Dentist-Orthodontist, dental specialist The Open Network for community development.
14:25-15:00	Home care as a solution for affordable healthcare by Cristina Vasile White-Yellow Cross Buzau
15:00-15:30	Coffee break
15:30-15:55	Organization of family doctors in Iasi
15:55-16:30	Integrated health provision by Vasile Cepoi, counselor of Prime Minister Ponta on health
16:30-17:00	Master Plan Romanian Health care The Open Network for community development by Cristina Vladu, health expert TON



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<b>F9 – Workshop Civil Society</b>	
<i>Time</i>	November 6 2015, 13:30-15:00 and 15:30-17:00
<i>Venue</i>	City Hall Iasi
<i>Context</i>	<p>“Strengthening local governance through intermediary structures”</p> <p>Last years all over Europe a tendency of a growing distrust in institutes, administrations and politics at all levels can be seen. At the same time there’s a strong demand for decentralization of competences. The decision-making process is going from central institutes to local groups. The principle of subsidiarity gains significance. In this context more and more intermediary structures are developing strategies to have a voice in the public debate. It’s clear that voting is an important aspect in public participation. But is it enough? Or how can (local) authorities stimulate the process from participation to civic engagement? In the spirit of decentralized cooperation existing and inspiring actions dealing with civic engagement through civil society organizations will be exchanged. The workshop will be the starting point to engage local government officials, civil society and informal groupings to facilitate a collaborative community planning process through a multi-stakeholder driven process. Presentations will discuss on the step by step approach from building up a community to influencing the community and finally influencing authorities.</p>
<i>Moderator</i>	Cristina Chert
<i>Reporter</i>	Bart Wynants
<i>Speakers</i>	
13:30-15:00	Focus on youth movement, youth work and youth policy planning
15:00-15:30	Coffee break
15:30-17:00	Focus on adult and elderly organizations



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<b>F10 – Workshop Social Economy</b>	
<i>Time</i>	November 6 2015, 13:30-15:00 and 15:30-17:00
<i>Venue</i>	City Hall Iasi
<i>Context</i>	<p>“Social investments through social economy”</p> <p>The central topic of this workshop is social economy, which is an important issue in Belgium, Romania and the European Union. Recently, legislative actions and (re)organization of the domain are taking place. In a time of budgetary austerity, social economy organizations play an important role in keeping the balance between economic and social investments. Social economy is made up of organizations whose economic activity stems from their primary goal to achieve social or societal objectives of general interest rather than generating profit. They are close to the people and aware of their needs, worries and hopes. Social economy has therefore a big potential for decentralized cooperation. A first exploratory meeting between actors from Belgium and Romania was organized in April 2015 by ADR/TON during the Belgian week in Bucharest. The outcome of this meeting was the question to organize a more in depth workshop during the Forum in order to develop common projects and actions.</p>
<i>Moderator</i>	Esmeralda Vandenbosch
<i>Reporter</i>	Andreea Lorena Urse (Eco Herbal)
<i>Speakers</i>	
13:30-14:00	Cristina Nichita, member of Romanian Parliament
14:00-15:00	Presentation project Inclusiv by research team Babes-Bolyai University Cluj
15:00-15:30	Coffee break
15:30-16:30	Continuation project Inclusiv
16:30-17:00	Towards a structural social economy platform Romania Belgium



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<b>F11 – Workshop Rural Development</b>	
<i>Time</i>	November 6 2015, 13:30-15:00 and 15:30-17:00
<i>Venue</i>	City Hall Iasi
<i>Context</i>	<p>“Upgrading small rural initiatives”</p> <p>Romania counts around 3.9 million agricultural holdings, of which 74% around smaller than 2 ha and 18% between 2 and 5 ha. Around 70.4% of these farms have an income of less than 2.000 Euro a year. This self-sustaining agriculture doesn’t have to be seen as a threat for sufficient food supply. On the contrary: small scale farms have an important role in providing food to localities and wider families, ensure local employment, reduce the ecological food print and preserve traditional craftsmanship. The workshop would like to take the opportunity to upgrade the virtues of small scale agriculture trough the stimulation of decentralized projects dealing with social farming, care farming and rural tourism. In other words: rural development in the broad sense of the word.</p>
<i>Moderator</i>	Michel De Backer and Vinciane Demoustier
<i>Reporter</i>	Jef Vanhoof
<i>Speakers</i>	
13:30-14:15	Presentation Water4Life project
14:15-15:00	Presentation project Delta 60
15:00-15:30	Coffee break
15:30-17:00	Focus on Local Action Groups





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<b>F12 – Workshop Administrative Capacity Building</b>	
<i>Time</i>	November 6 2015, 13:30-15:00
<i>Venue</i>	City Hall Iasi
<i>Context</i>	The workshop builds further on the conclusions of the plenary session on local administrative capacity building. General concepts will be translated in more concrete and practical working instruments.
<i>Moderator</i>	
<i>Reporter</i>	
<i>Speakers</i>	

<b>F13 – Working Group Parliament Members</b>	
<i>Time</i>	November 6 2015, 13:30-15:00 and 15:30-17:00
<i>Venue</i>	City Hall Iasi
<i>Context</i>	The purpose of this working group of parliament members from both countries is to enhance the contacts between the different parliaments. Three main topics will be discussed during this meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Bilateral agreements</li> <li>- Regionalization</li> <li>- Own parliamentary work and specialization with potential for future cooperation</li> </ul>
<i>Moderator</i>	Member Romanian Parliament and Flemish Parliament
<i>Reporter</i>	Patrick Van den Nieuwenhof
<i>Speakers</i>	
	Meeting with agenda



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<b>F14 – Fire Safety</b>	
<i>Time</i>	November 6 2015, 15:30-17:00
<i>Venue</i>	City Hall Iasi
<i>Context</i>	<p>“Building on a permanent cooperation and training between volunteers and professionals”</p> <p>In Romania the professional firefighters (ISU) are still a military structure and situated in bigger cities. In the past, practically all villages had a voluntary firefighters corps (SVSU) as well. The past years lot of firefighting trucks and other firefighting materials have been sent to partner villages and cities in Romania from Belgium out. Some Belgian committees also looked to really set up or activate again the voluntary fire brigades locally. The main idea is to get a good cooperation between ISU and SVSU and a common training lead by ISU. Doing that way, SVSU can be an ideal satellite post for ISU locally in order to start action immediately after alarming. There is a big willingness to further support such cooperation as well with exchange of trainings between Belgium and Romania as with additional interesting materials and utilities. Moreover a twinning between Belgian and Romanian firefighters can be set up. Also preventive actions locally as smoke detectors, evacuation plans schools, etc. should be set up as well as cooperation between firefighters and health centers.</p>
<i>Moderator</i>	Francisc Giurgiu
<i>Reporter</i>	Paul Helsen
<i>Speakers</i>	
15:30-16:00	Speech by Raed Arafat, Secretary of State Department for Emergency Situations
16:00-17:00	Paul Helsen - Towards an Erasmus+ project ‘Train the Trainer’ Francisc Giurgiu – Swiss project: support for voluntary firefighters