

## WS24 – Civil society organisations; NGOs

### 第一场

#### The Chinese vision

- Distinction between Governmental NGOs and grass-root NGOs, from the civil society.
- Problem of legitimacy : for Grass root NGOs: must register by the government to be recognized
- Grass root- NGO are forced to register as commercial enterprises, then submitted to taxation.
- Need for a change in legal framework concerning NGOs registration
- Problem of legitimacy for GONGOs: need more and more civic recognition by society
- Financial challenge for grass root NGOs (GR-NGOs) : need to diversify and increase their resources (public, citizens support, companies etc...).
- Most grass-root NGOs are very limited in terms of means and size, their impact is therefore still limited.
- Human resource challenge: Because of financial problems, low wages, difficulty to recruit people, in particular skilled workers.
- Internal governance : while GR-NGOs face external constrains, have to think about their internal organization.
- Need for networking and capitalization of experience to increase GONGOs impact
- Transition challenge for GONGOs: from governmental organization, to NGOs



- Evolution and adaptation: Chinese society evolving very quickly. NGOs and GONGOs have to adapt to these changes and try to influence these changes

## Session 3

### The European vision

- No distinction between grass-root NGO and GONGO in Europe
- NGO embedded in a conception of participatory democracy
- Public funding is more considered as a recognition than a form of dependency towards the State
- danger with too much private funding: promoting a liberal approach that would weakens the State
- Challenge is not only to build Civil Society in China but to find a way for it to have a voice in international fora
- Romanian NGOs massively depending from foreign donor
- Romanian NGOs : low public legitimacy, low support from the government
- Romania : Integration in the EU brings much on the State to produce public services instead of NGOs
- Associations are taking up more and more responsibilities in public policies (social, sport, youth etc..)
- Governments relying on voters are more sensitive to public opinion and CSOs pressure
- NGOs positioning (confrontative or collaborative) depends on the political culture of the country and its ability to have NGO participate in public dialogue
  
- Umbrella CSOs are developing more and more, trying to find some cross-cutting values

## Session 3

### The convergences between the European and Chinese society

- Wages lower than in other sectors
- Problem of funding
- NGOs work for the poorest/weakest people. Both China and Europe have service providers NGOs

### The divergences between the European and Chinese society

- In Europe easy to create an NGO, difficult to develop it
- In China – difficult to create even NGOs
- European Civil society diverse in terms of size and actions (service providers, policy+++)
- Europe -second level association for collective representation, networking and capacity building of member
- Europe- government, citizens, private sector- all are part of the problem, part of the solution. Civil Society in China now faces one major problem: the state

## Session 4

### Acting together on common challenge

- Chinese request : Cooperation to train for professional NGO leaders
- Chinese request : Cooperation on guidance on how to build NGO
- Chinese need for independent expertise on public policy
- European proposal: Exchange on technical info: legal framework, taxation procedures, etc.
- Exchange on NGOs internal governance issues
- European proposal: Need for publishing collaborations
- Need to link independent expertise with Chinese academic research
- Collaboration through shared bilingual web-sites, newsletter etc;
- Building of a common taskforce to disseminate shared information
- European Proposal: Opportunity for Chinese CSOs to participate to the dynamic of WSF