

MEDIA MONITORING

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**CENTRUL PENTRU STUDIUL DEZVOLTĂRII
INTERNAȚIONALE ȘI MIGRAȚIEI**
CENTRE FOR THE STUDY OF INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND MIGRATION



SUBJECTS OF THE MOMENT

according to media, think-tanks, international organizations, and other actors interested in international development and migration

NGO sector grows and consolidates – FDSC Report

The study "Romania 2024. Non-governmental sector. Profile, trends, challenges" of the Civil Society Development Foundation highlights the growth and consolidation of the NGO sector in Romania. It analyzes the size, structure, dynamics and organization of NGOs, highlighting that the sector's revenues represent 1.51% of GDP, with the main sources of funding being the redirection of 3.5% of income tax, sponsorships and donations. The study notes relatively stable public trust in NGOs and identifies major challenges, including insufficient resources and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The launch event highlighted the influence of NGOs on public policies, exemplified by civic mobilization in cases such as Roșia Montană and Colectiv.

News, FDSC, 24.04.2024: <https://shorturl.at/plXu2>

Regional Cooperation: Türkiye and Romania forge a strategic partnership, emphasizing Black Sea security.

Turkey's Vice President, Cevdet Yılmaz, and Romania's Prime Minister, Marcel Ciolacu, discussed in Bucharest a strategic partnership and security in the Black Sea, highlighting NATO cooperation and measures against mines caused by the Russia-Ukraine conflict. They celebrated 90 years of bilateral relations and 20 years since Romania's NATO accession, announcing the establishment of a High-Level Strategic Cooperation Council. Bilateral trade, exceeding \$10 billion annually, is set to continue growing, with significant Turkish investments. The two officials also addressed the Israel-Palestine conflict, reaffirming their commitment to peace and humanitarian aid.

News, Anadolu Agency, 27.04.2024: <https://shorturl.at/tChdw>



A new shipment with food products and barracks items, worth 8.2 million lei, left Romania for the Gaza Strip

Romania sent a new shipment of humanitarian aid to the Gaza Strip, worth 8.2 million lei, according to decisions taken by the National Committee for Emergency Situations, led by Prime Minister Marcel Ciolacu. The National Administration of State Reserves and Special Issues provided the necessary resources for this humanitarian action. The initial transport is made with national resources to the HUB established by the Commission of the European Union in Cyprus, and through the European Civil Protection Mechanism, it will be distributed to the Gaza Strip with the support of UN specialized agencies. It is a coordinated effort to provide assistance to the civilian population affected by the emergency situation in the region.

News, G4 Media, 29.04.2024: <https://shorturl.at/mYi93>

President von der Leyen reaffirms EU's strong support for Lebanon and its people and announces a €1 billion package of EU funding

Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, accompanied by the President of the Republic of Cyprus, Nikos Christodoulides, discussed Lebanon's significant challenges and how the EU can best support the country. The EU announced a €1 billion financial assistance package for 2024-2027, focusing on basic services and economic reforms, and providing support for the Lebanese Armed Forces and border management. This continued assistance underscores the EU's commitment to Lebanon and its people amid significant challenges.

News, European Commission, 02.05.2024: <https://shorturl.at/gFidx>



Byron Camilleri in highest level meeting with eastern Libya's Haftar government

Malta's Home Affairs Minister, Byron Camilleri, met with Khalifa Haftar, the leader of the government in eastern Libya, in Benghazi. This was the most significant meeting to date, as Malta had previously only recognized the government in Tripoli. The discussions focused on Mediterranean security, cooperation in training, combating human trafficking, and education. Camilleri was accompanied by senior Maltese officials, including the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Christopher Cutajar, who also led the first meeting with the Haftar administration last year.

News, Times of Malta, 07.05.2024 : <https://shorturl.at/jdDvq>

'A colonial mindset': why global aid agencies need to get out of the way

Tsega Girma's efforts in Tigray underscore the vital role of local charities in responding swiftly to humanitarian crises, showcasing the effectiveness of grassroots initiatives in delivering immediate aid. This aligns with the growing trend towards "localising" aid, advocated by major organizations like the UK's FCDO and USAid, which recognize the importance of empowering local institutions. However, despite increasing acknowledgment, only a fraction of donor funds currently reaches these organizations, hindering their capacity to address escalating humanitarian needs. Critics argue that the existing aid system perpetuates a colonial mindset, neglecting the valuable cultural insights and community-driven solutions offered by grassroots organizations like Shining Hope for Communities.

Analysis, The Guardian, 07.05.2024: <https://shorturl.at/wYWBD>



The NATO strategy regarding the southern neighbourhood

A report published by a group of independent NATO experts highlights that the alliance's strategy concerning the southern neighbourhood is focused on warning, planning, partnerships, and commitments to crisis management rather than deploying new military forces to respond to critical situations that could endanger the alliance. Building on the report's conclusions and in anticipation of the NATO summit in July in Washington, a more explicit approach to the risks and threats emanating from NATO's extended southern flank is necessary. Although the Washington summit will focus on deterrence and defence in Eastern Europe, transatlantic partners face a continuously evolving strategic environment around the Mediterranean basin and significant risks stemming from an extended southern flank.

Analysis, German Marshall Fund, 07.05.2024: <https://shorturl.at/QjUJp>

Soaring number of migrants trapped in Yemen face abuse and starvation, say NGOs

African migrants stranded in Yemen face a dire humanitarian crisis marked by horrifying violence and brutal treatment, as highlighted by international NGOs and civil society organizations. Urgent appeals for funding from the International Organization for Migration (IOM) underscore the critical need to support the safe return of migrants to their countries of origin amidst escalating migration flows from the Horn of Africa. Trapped migrants endure various forms of abuse, including murder, mutilation, forced disappearance, and sexual violence, amid Yemen's divided landscape. As new frontlines emerge and economic strains deepen in African nations, particularly Ethiopia, more migrants fall prey to traffickers, enduring perilous journeys and further exploitation.

News, The Guardian, 08.05.2024: <https://shorturl.at/Sm6VB>



How can the EU become a better partner and orchestrator in development policy

The member states of the European Union (EU) collectively constitute the largest international donor in development assistance. However, they consistently face challenges due to a fragmented institutional framework, limited involvement of non-state actors, and a gap between policy and implementation. Recommendations for addressing these issues include establishing two new institutions – a European agency for development and cooperation and a European Bank for Climate and Sustainable Development. Additionally, improving governance is necessary to address these challenges and enhance the EU's effectiveness in global development assistance.

Analysis, CEPS, 08.05.2024: <https://shorturl.at/CGKh3>

Xi Jinping hopes to improve EU–China relations – and drive a wedge between Europe and the US

President Xi Jinping's recent visit to Europe underscores a shifting dynamic in economic and diplomatic relations, as European leaders express concerns over globalization and seek to 'de-risk' investments away from China. While Xi aims to charm European leaders and maintain economic ties, his visit also includes stern warnings on Europe's trade policies and diplomatic stance. China's economic agenda prioritizes high-end manufacturing exports, positioning itself as a dominant player in sectors crucial for Europe. However, hopes for concessions on issues like overcapacity and the Ukraine war clash with China's steadfast commitment to non-interference in foreign affairs, complicating efforts to reconcile diplomatic differences.

Analysis, Chatham House, 09.05.2024: <https://shorturl.at/uFdsY>



IOM Chief Visits Bangladesh, Secures Funding Commitments for Rohingya Refugees

Director General of IOM, Amy Pope, visited Bangladesh and launched the 2024 Global Migration Report. In discussions with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Pope emphasized the urgent need for funding for Rohingya refugees. Donors pledged support for IOM projects. Pope inaugurated the Global Tour of the Rohingya Cultural Memory Center and participated in a dialogue on migration. She also inaugurated new UN common spaces to improve coordination of UN operations in Bangladesh.

News, IOM, 09.05.2024: <https://shorturl.at/zDXjd>

Israel is sending more troops to Rafah amid warnings of famine in Gaza.

Israel announced the deployment of additional troops to Rafah, southern Gaza, the main city affected by the conflict with Hamas, despite international concerns about the impact on civilians and the threat of famine in the Gaza Strip. The military operation described earlier by Israel as limited appears to have become more extensive, with extended attacks in Rafah and intensified fighting in northern Gaza. As Israel increases its military presence in Rafah, a major concern is the fate of those forced to flee and the delivery of humanitarian assistance in the Gaza Strip, amid the closure of crossing points and a significant reduction in aid traffic.

News, The NY Times, 16.05.2024: <https://t.ly/UAJiv>



Afghan Women Struggle with Soaring Mental Health Issues

Since the Taliban's takeover in Afghanistan in 2021, numerous women grapple with severe mental health problems, particularly depression. Reports indicate that about 80% of those seeking treatment for depression are women and girls. Factors such as Taliban-imposed restrictions on women's education and employment, as well as the increasing domestic violence, contribute to this alarming situation. Some women, such as Marjan and Nafas Gul from Herat province, recount their personal experiences, including suicide attempts and the devastating effects of Taliban policies on their lives and families.

News, IPS, 16.05.2024: <https://shorturl.at/1xDLh>

US confirms first aid trucks arrive via Gaza pier

The United States Armed Forces confirm the arrival of the first shipment of humanitarian aid in the Gaza Strip via a temporary floating pontoon, providing essential supplies amidst the current crisis. British aid, including tents and hygiene kits, is expected to reach Gaza through this route, while international calls persist for the opening of more land routes needed to deliver aid to those in urgent need. Efforts are also being made to reopen the Rafah crossing, amid ongoing concerns about the safety of land convoys following past violent incidents and disruptions.

News, BBC, 17.05.2024: <https://shorturl.at/SICQ8>



The movie "Io Capitano" – when a tale of migration is not just fiction

The movie "Io Capitano" resonates deeply in Senegal, where migration to Europe is a harsh reality for many. Depicting the perilous journey from Dakar to Europe, the film strikes a chord with audiences who have experienced similar journeys. As the film travels across Senegal, being screened in various locations, it sparks discussions about the risks and dreams associated with migration. Despite the warnings and dangers portrayed in the film, some still see migration as their only option for a better life. The film brings to light the complex realities of migration, urging young people to consider their options carefully.

News, The NY Times, 18.05.2024: <https://shorturl.at/kDny6>

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