

Eastern Europe Global Compact Networks Survey Result

The following is a result of part of the survey that was done by the UNDP Bratislava office for **Regional Meeting of East European Global Compact Network, April 23 -24 in London**. 13 Global Compact country networks responded to the survey. The questionnaire included a total of 28 questions (some with sub-questions).

Functioning networks in Eastern Europe:

Armenia, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Georgia, Hungary, Lithuania, Kazakhstan, Northern Cyprus, Macedonia, Moldova, Poland, Russian Federation, Turkey, Ukraine.

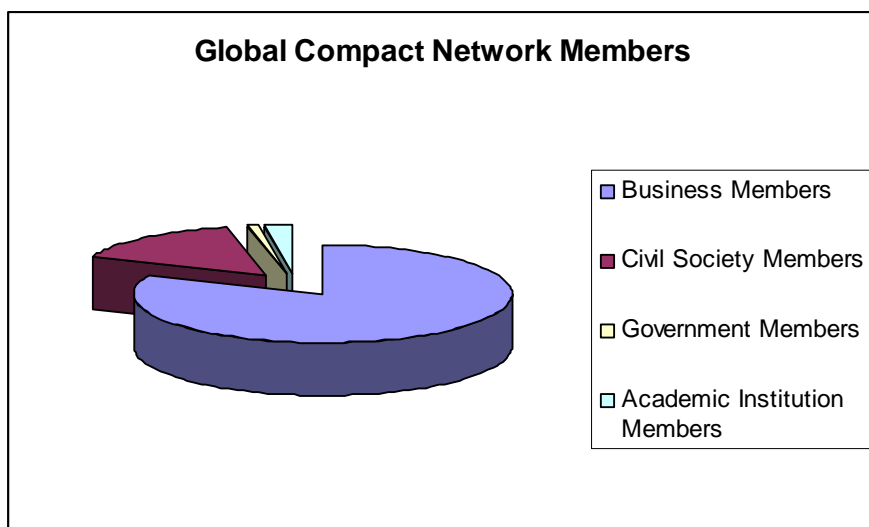
We have received 15 responses (88% responses)¹ – the organizers² wish to express BIG THANKS for collaboration on filling the survey.

Global Compact Network Members

Country	Number of Global Compact members	Business Members (SME proportion in (%))	Civil Society Members	Government Members	Academic Institution Members
Armenia	25	18(15%)	6	0	1
Belarus	30	27(74%)	3	0	0
Bosnia-Herzegovina	28	25(80%)	1	1	1
Bulgaria	122	95	25	0	2
Croatia	77	65	2	0	3
Georgia	29	21(66%)	5	0	3
Hungary	15	11(33%)	1	1	0
Lithuania	45	38	5	0	2
Northern Cyprus	18	18	0	0	0
Macedonia	51	48	2	0	1
Moldova	17	17(75%)	0	0	0
Russian Federation	33	27	5	0	1
Turkey	68	50(74%)	14	2	2
Ukraine	64	37(33%)	14	0	0

¹ We included Slovakia in the survey which is in advanced stage of the network launch preparation

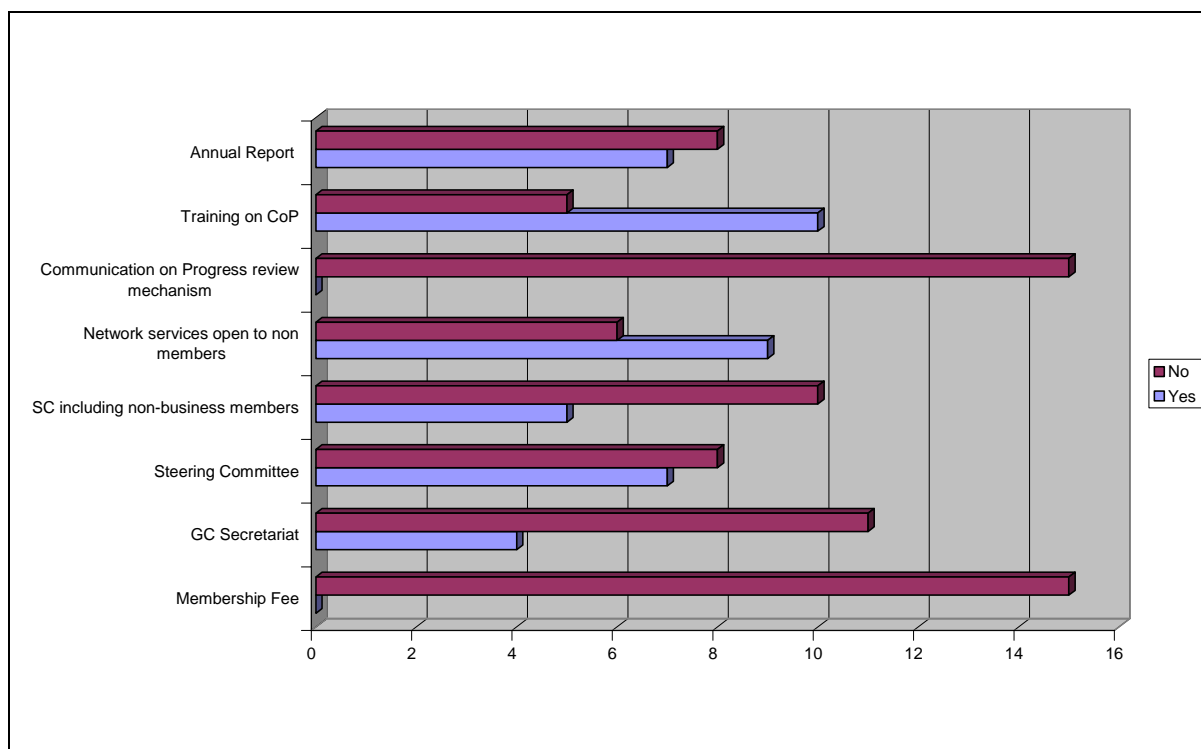
² Karolina Mzyk, Janka Geckova and Minkyung Hong, Bratislava Regional Centre



Structure and Management of Global Compact Network

Country	Membership Fee	GC Secretariat	Steering Committee	SC including non-business members	Network services open to non members	Communication on Progress review mechanism	Training on CoP	Annual Report
Armenia					√			√
Belarus			√	√	√		√	
Bosnia-Herzegovina			√		√		√	√
Bulgaria		√	√	√	√		√	√
Croatia					N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Georgia					√		√	
Hungary					√		√	
Lithuania							√	√
Northern Cyprus			√		√		√	
Macedonia		√	√	√			√	√
Moldova							√	
Russian Federation		√	√	√	√		√	
Slovakia								
Turkey			√	√	√			√
Ukraine		√						√
15	0	4(27%)	7(47%)	5(33%)	9(60%)	0	10(67%)	7(47%)

√ = yes, blank = no



According to the survey, each Global Compact country network is facing the following challenges. The responses show that main challenges differ depending on a wide array of factors including lack of CSR concept understanding, financial support, political stability, companies' commitment and etc.

Country	Main Challenges
Armenia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of CSR Concept understanding application by private sector and government • Lack of private sector knowledge of PPPs concept
Belarus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General percent of business as bearing the secondary role in society • Legislative bans and other barriers serving as the obstacles for CSR practices of companies
Bosnia-Herzegovina	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial support • Companies' commitment • Changes in companies' management structures • Government Complexity • Political environment
Bulgaria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Difficulties to trigger more pro-active approach of the business community to engage in development projects • Insufficient understanding and knowledge about CSR as a way of doing business • Not sufficient exchange of ideas/practices between the GC members
Croatia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishing credibility and relevance of the initiative in comparison to other ones already existing in Croatia • Achieving one prominent success in the first year • Keeping the leaders involved • Finding the way of dealing with companies with inadequate practices • Aligning the GC with UN activities, goals, and objectives in the country
Georgia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of understanding CSR as a new concept among business and society in general – affects engagement and enthusiasm of the members • Lack of project funding for international expert to provide CSR management consultancy to the interested GCGN members • Lack of project funding for feasibility studies that could enable highly visible, strong

	long-term developmental impact partnerships
Hungary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Financial support and the overload of work of the champions and key people, i.e. lack of sufficient capacities
Lithuania	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attracting interest to GC/CSR issues of the media in Lithuania Attracting companies in the region Active participation in the Network meetings/activities of all GC members
Northern Cyprus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low awareness about Global Compact and GC principles Low awareness on environment related issues
Macedonia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Time and financial constraints
Moldova	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Business environment in the country Political stability Lack of CSR tradition
Russian Federation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased efforts of the Russian companies in reaching international standards in social and environmental responsibility Businesses remain passive towards active involvement of the civil society within the Network and multi-stakeholder approach is still unfamiliar in Russia
Slovakia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Motivate champions to sign up to GC – preliminary approval from Shell, Pfizer, Ernst&Young, AmCham, BritCham
Turkey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Steering Committee members have not taken the lead in developing the GC network in Turkey UNDP Private Sector Office will focus on less direct GC advocacy due to the funding problems
Ukraine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of efficient dialogue and meeting expectations on CSR roles of the main stakeholders involved Enhancing legal framework for CSR and PPP is quite slow due to a number of reasons (unstable political situation, lack of clear initiative from the government's side, etc)

Recommendations to the Bratislava Regional Centre and Global Compact Office

	Bratislava Regional Centre	Global Compact Office
Armenia	Transfer of day-to-day management (included ATLAS) of the Project to COs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep focal points in the loop of the GCO-Local Network Member relationships and communications Clear guidance on the relationships with the private sector in order to avoid market distortion
Belarus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assistance in search and arranging in the international experts on major training/learning events in the country to be provided Focal Point for Summit in Geneva to be established 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> E-letters generated to in-country GC participants are to be cc-ed to the Focal Points as well Effective communication is to be established
Bosnia-Herzegovina	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide support in form of best practices in areas of partnership projects and CSR activities conducted in region. Best practices and examples on sectoral CSR strategies. Training for focal points – transfer of specific knowledge on management of GC networks, working with government etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update the website to include list of members according to industries Organize a database for European GC members on the website.
Bulgaria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create a knowledge hub for exchange of partnership projects ideas Codify the PPP experience in the region 	Ensure smooth and regular communication on administrative issues for the work of the local networks

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Think about a regional publication to summarize the latest achievements and practices of the GC networks 	
Croatia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compile a list of possible funding sources for GC activities, or best practices in financing apart from membership fees • Promote exchange of information on specific network activities across the region (central repository of collective action/partnership project descriptions, or something of that sort) 	Promote exchange of practical information on network activities (what worked and why, what did work and why, who are good people to use to cover specific topics and provide other kinds of assistance, etc.)
Georgia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allocate/approve funding for administration/financial assistant for the project to handle administrative/logistics issues • Develop a special guide in consultation with all local networks in the region for outreach campaign and benefits of CSR(as, domestic companies have different capacity and motivation for CSR as opposed to transnational corporations) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and transfer a set of special promotional materials for public awareness campaign to local networks(visuals, stories, videos, etc. – that explain in theory and by real-life examples what CSR is and what the benefits are for the companies and society, as well as give specific examples from different perspective – e.g. large, transnational corporations, domestic companies (medium sized companies), society who benefited from social investment projects, etc.- as the CSR concept is new for companies, society at large, and especially for journalists who can play a big role in increasing the awareness. • Develop a new approach for engaging large and medium sized domestic companies from developing countries. At this moment, mainly large transnational corporations pursue CSR, as they have capacity to do it. But the domestic companies of the developing countries, though are growing fast, still face a number of challenges for making a business profitable in the framework of legislation, therefore do not see much of benefits for taking extra responsibilities in terms of implementing social investment projects, rather prefer one time charity actions(as these actions are more visible and cheaper). Moreover, there are practically no pressure groups demanding CSR friendly business operations.
Hungary	Provide support further on as today to the one person UNDP Liaison officer, who is also the GC focal point for Hungary and national focal point of the EU/UNDP Regional CSR Project, has to coordinate, provide technical backstopping for the still ongoing seven other projects in Hungary, arrange and participate knowledge management events, prepare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update the website to include all new members • Send again the company specific online link for filling in their survey

	reports, etc.	
Lithuania	Make GC networks' meetings more oriented to business companies, which would attract more interest from business community (focusing on visits and meetings with responsible companies, less organizational discussions that are repetitive in meetings from previous years, e.g. on structures of the networks, etc.).	Coordinated approach to communication with Network Members (business companies are not used to getting official UN information in a standard format without explanation and addressing their particular needs, e.g. recent threatening letters about submissions of COPs within 90 days being sent without any explanation, thus not really understood by the companies that will do COPs for the first time).
Northern Cyprus	More support to the focal points especially during the launching period of the network. Improve the coordination among the local networks in the region.	A network among the focal points can be useful to share the experiences of other local networks. Training for the focal points and also for the members about the GC and COP.
Macedonia	Regular exchange of activities of other networks; possibilities for participation in regional projects	Training of focal points; work with internationals
Moldova	More opportunities to be created for sharing experience among GC Local Networks (esp. COP)	--
Russian Federation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most of the regional Networks are in their infancy and it is important that the GCO and UNDP continue bringing effective capacity building support. • For a country like Russia it is vitally important to have at least two brokers in the team for dealing with both affective promotion of the GC and developing partnership projects. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is important that the GCO continues facilitating effective linkages between the local and global networks for quality control and GC brand protection. • Most of the regional Networks are in their infancy and it is important that the GCO and UNDP continue effective capacity building support.
Slovakia	Satisfied with BRC support, would welcome opportunities for expert sharing regarding COP trainings or other specific topics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide more printed materials (manuals, guidebooks on implementation) also with region-specific examples • Develop mechanism to involve subsidiaries in communication if company signs on a headquarter level • Communicate with national governments regarding GC support
Turkey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of additional funding for GC activities in Turkey. • Creation of an online forum whereby focal points would increase their knowledge sharing on the GC Networks in their own countries/regions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of additional funding for GC activities in Turkey. • Creation of an online forum whereby GC network members would interact on GC and CSR related issues.
Ukraine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equip the GC focal points with expertise (best practices available globally) on sustainability of the GC initiative and local network beyond UN support. • Create a pool of private sector representatives/champions (regional and global) ready to share expertise and participate as key-note speakers at various GC network events. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop knowledge tools on internalizing GC principles: self-assessment tools for companies, how-to-do guides, etc. • Ensure quick notification process for the GC participants.