THE ROLE OF CIVIL SECTOR IN CREATING A HEALTHY COMMUNITY

- Bucharest, Romania -

Framework

- 8 NGO representatives
- Questions with open answers
- NGO's in the fields of health, human rights, environment
- Common answers were grouped together
- Qualitative data
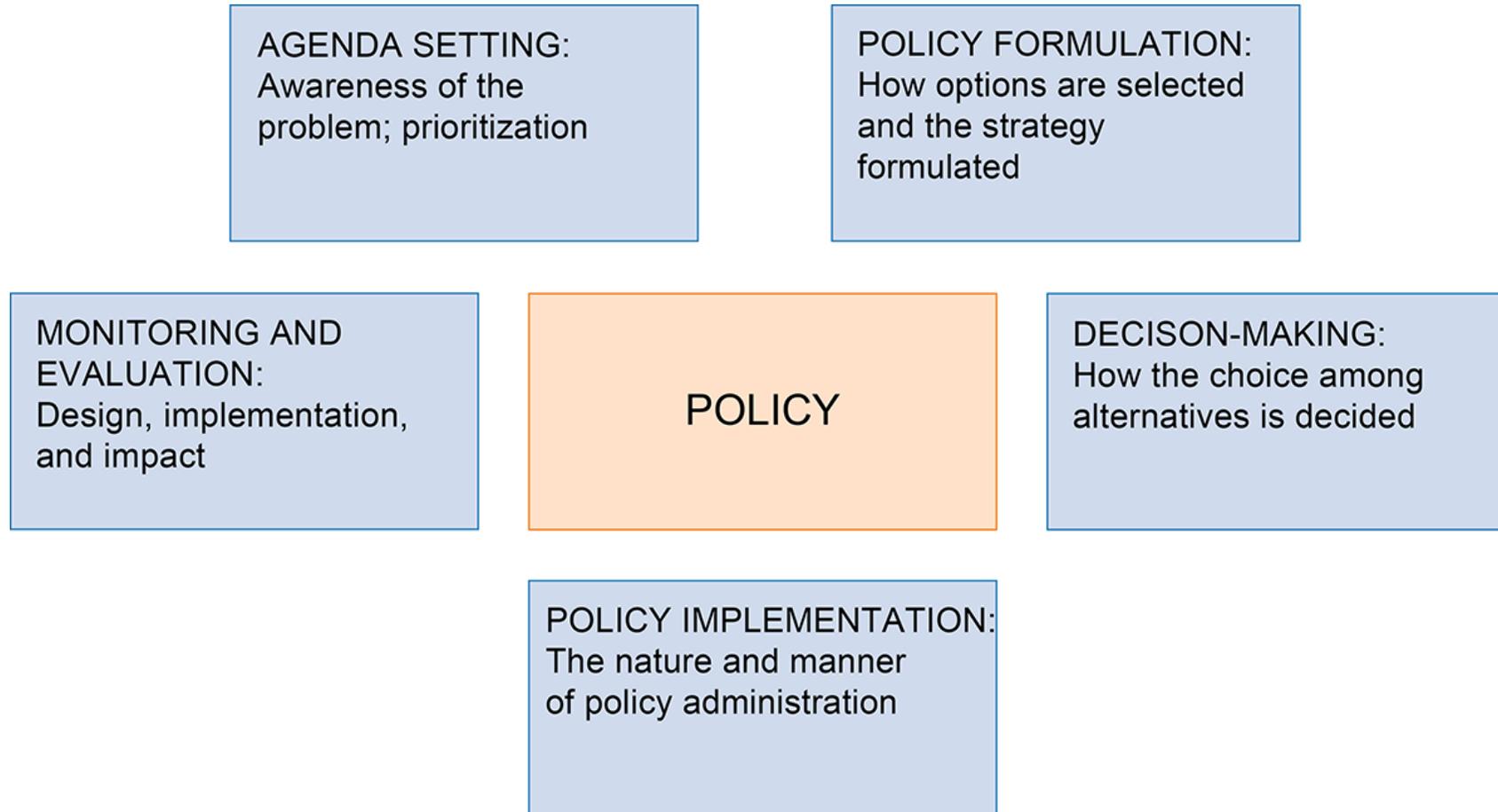
Civil Society's role and activities at three levels:

1) generation of knowledge around social and environmental determinants ;

2) the relations of power among different civil society actors and institutions, and between civil society and the state;

3) the relation to oneself and to others. The interconnections between these three domains of human action constitute civil society's actions and role.

- The role of civil society has often been an adjunct to the dominant economic and political paradigm

What is a community?

- We understand "community" as a specific group of people who usually live in a particular geographic area and have the same values, mores, and culture as well as a social structure that reflects the type of relations that the group has forged over time. The members of a community acquire their personal and social identity by sharing the beliefs, values, and mores that the community has embraced in the past but could change in the future. Community members are conscious of their group identity and share common needs and a commitment to meet them

- One of civil society's basic functions is to give a voice to vulnerable populations and communities who are utterly invisible for policy-making purposes. Since scientific knowledge about a health problem or its determinants can never substitute for the experience of the people living with the problem, it is essential that policy- and decision-making bodies be genuinely democratic to ensure that policies provide solutions to problems that only people in situations of vulnerability can see and feel.

Civil society can play several roles in the policy-making cycle:

AGENDA SETTING:
Awareness of the problem; prioritization

POLICY FORMULATION:
How options are selected and the strategy formulated

MONITORING AND EVALUATION:
Design, implementation, and impact

POLICY

DECISON-MAKING:
How the choice among alternatives is decided

POLICY IMPLEMENTATION:
The nature and manner of policy administration

What services are covered via local NGOs? Is there a gap in public needs?

- Health, education, social, equality, legal, anti-discrimination, environment, minorities, religious.

- The gap exists not in services themselves, but usually in the funds needed vs funds raised.

- There are enough service providers and enough services provided but they are usually under funded.

- There are gaps in gender equality services and also in addiction services.

What resources are available to bring a greater change?

- All, but financial

- Human resources

- Knowledge

- Willpower

- Small communities that become stronger and have a voice (i.e.: parents of drug users)

Is there a strategic framework?Public health priorities defined?Policy created?

- World Health Organisation's strategy states two major objectives: (1) the improvement of health for all and the reduction in health inequalities and (2) the improvement in leadership and in participatory governance for health.

- Government of Romania's Decision no. 1028/2014 concerning the approval of the National Health Strategy 2014-2020 and the action plan for 2014-2020 is attempting to implement the Europe 2020 WHO strategy at national level, as part of a wider group of seven symbolic EU initiatives

- Sadly the Romanian National Health Strategy for 2014-2020 and the Action Plan for the Implementation of the National Strategy for 2014-2020 are examples of bureaucratic documents that three years after their adoption have yet to produce measurable effects.

- While in Romania social inclusion has been for some time on the agenda of social policy makers, it only now that the issue of health is being looked upon as another risk factor for exclusion. Those at risk of social exclusion are facing not just exclusion from the labour market or from education, but also exclusion from the opportunity of a healthy life and that is why health policy cannot be a medical sector-only issue, but a cross-sector concern.

How my organization fits in those policies and frame work?

• Projects and programs related to:

Social care

LGBT community

Addiction

Health

HIV/Hep B,C prevention

Human rights watch

How my organization fits in that policies and frame work? (ALIAT)

- Alcoline
- Alcoinfo centers
- Training for professionals
- Treatment clinic