

## **NGOs should take on a more important role in reinforcing democracy says Council of Europe**

Some 180 representatives of non-governmental organisations met in Kyiv (Ukraine) from 25 to 27 November at the initiative of the Council of Europe to discuss the role their organisations could play in developing and consolidating democracy

This regional conference, the second of its kind, gave participants from Belarus, Poland, Russia, Ukraine, and neighbouring countries a discussion platform for stepping up co-operation and making recommendations for civil society initiatives in their region.

These conferences are run under a pilot project launched after the 2005 Warsaw Summit by the Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe. The project is geared to convening regional congresses of NGOs to come up with responses to problems of involving civil society in developing and strengthening democracy.