

Drawing Lessons and Strengthening the EaP CSF Platforms' Participation in AAs/DCFTAs Implementation: Capacity Building on CSOs Monitoring and Contribution to Policy Making

23-25 September

*Courtyard Marriott Hotel
Freedom Square, 4
Tbilisi, Georgia*

Introduction

Successful implementation of the AAs/DCFTAs in Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine has been identified as a key success factor of the Eastern Partnership initiative. A great number of the EaP CSF activities focus on different aspects of monitoring the implementation of these agreements.

This seminar will offer numerous opportunities for participants to compare the country situations in terms of structures, strategies and lessons on implementation of AAs/DCFTAs. As a result the EaP CSF role as a contributor to the monitoring and policy making process in the AAs/DCFTAs implementation should be strengthened. The panel sessions will be followed by targeted parallel sessions (workshops). The participants of the workshops will produce a set of recommendations for CSOs' better impact in the EaP countries. The final report of the event will serve as the basis for the EaP CSF advocacy activities towards EU institutions and EaP national governments.

Objectives:

- learn about the key aspects of AAs/DCFTAs that CSOs should focus on in Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine;
- compare approaches and identify successful strategies where civil society can have an impact;
- increase engagement with DCFTA implementation and help develop a relevant civil society sector in the field;
- strengthen joined CSOs actions under Eastern Partnership Initiative and AA/DCFTA for better national impact.

Participants

Around 60 representatives of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum from 6 EaP countries, EaP Government representatives, and EU institutions

Language and format

This is a capacity building seminar and it will focus on interactive workshop discussions. The members of the EaP CSF Steering Committee will play an active role as workshop moderators and rapporteurs. The seminar will be held in Russian and English with interpretation in plenary and without interpretation in parallel workshops.



Agenda

23 September Arrival and Getting to Know the Georgian Reality

17:30 – 19:00 Learning about Georgian reality – political context, key challenges for Georgian Euro-Atlantic integration and the focus of the National Platform and civil society organizations in general

- Establishment of balanced political system through reforms, deepening of democratic processes with the involvement of civil society
- The foreign policy of the Russian Federation as a challenge for Georgian Euro-Atlantic integration process
- Short-term achievements – visa liberalisation, DCFTA, democratic transformation in the EU integration context, key challenges

Speakers: **Lasha Tughushi**, Chair of the EaP CSF Georgian National Platform
Ketevan Tsikhelashvili, First Deputy State Minister for Reconciliation and Civil Equality, Georgia
Archil Talakvadze, Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs, Georgia
Ana Natsvlshvili, Chair of Georgian Young Lawyers Association

Discussion

19:00 – 21:00 Networking dinner with members of the EaP CSF Georgian National Platform

24 September Focusing on Association Agreements Implementation

9:00 – 9:30 Registration of participants

9:30 – 10:00 Opening and welcome addresses

Speakers: **Krzysztof Bobinski**, Co-chair of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum
Gigi Gigiadze, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Georgia
Lasha Tughushi, Chair of the EaP CSF Georgian National Platform

Bloc 1: Setting the scene: Association Action Plans as national policy agenda – role and space for CSOs involvement

10:00 – 11:45 Panel discussion - Key points for making the Association Agreements successful

Input from the EU side and the EaP countries on key areas of Association Agreements to focus on in terms of results in the first year of monitoring and areas for civil society to monitor in the future.

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Moderator: **Leonid Litra**, Institute of World Policy, team member of the Eastern Partnership Index, Rapporteur of the event

Panelists: **Stephen Stork**, Head of Cooperation Office at the EU Delegation to Georgia
Nataliya Hnydyuk, Deputy Minister of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, Director of the Government Office for European Integration
Tatiana Molcean, Deputy Director of the Department for European Integration, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration, Moldova
Ana Natsvlishvili, Chair of Georgian Young Lawyers Association
Igor Botan, Association for Participatory Democracy ADEPT, Moldova

11:45 - 12:00 Coffee break

12:00 - 13:30 Workshops proposing solutions to current challenges the three countries face in implementing Association Agreements

Participants will explore in detail how to strengthen the CSOs engagement, mobilize society, and deal with reform fatigue, as well as political barriers and conditions for achieving best impact on the AAs implementation agenda. Each workshop should agree on 3 recommendations to be written on a flipchart and shared with everyone in the plenary room later.

Workshops' topics:

- *Bringing AAs to reality at local level (local governments, CSOs, business groups) to engage with the implementation process* – Moderated by **Victoria Bucataru**, Moldovan National Platform
- *Dealing with reform fatigue in Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine and tackling challenges – National Platforms' role* - Moderated by **Alexandra Kalatozishvili**, Georgian National Platform

The purpose of these workshops is to discuss the ins and outs of what works and what does not work in Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine with implementation of the Association Agreements, to share tactics and strategies that work and to strengthen the role of National Platforms in their watchdog and policy stakeholders' capacity.

13:30 – 14:30 Lunch

Bloc 2: CSOs bilateral and multilateral platforms united for AAs success in Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine

14:30 - 15:45 Panel discussion

The panel will focus on the past and future activities of the CSOs platforms to monitor and facilitate the implementation of the AAs in Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine; how the platforms might interact



and their value added. The European Commission (EC) representative will present the EC bilateral support to the civil society in the 3 countries that signed the AAs.

Moderator: **Krzysztof Bobinski**, Co-chair of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum

Panelists: **Archil Karaulashvili**, First Deputy State Minister of Georgia on European and Euro-Atlantic Integration

Sinziana Poyana, DG NEAR, European Commission - presentation on bilateral support to civil society in Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine

Lasha Tughushi, Chair of the EaP CSF Georgian National Platform

Zoriana Mishchuk, Representative of the EU-Ukraine Bilateral CSOs Platform

Georgeta Mincu, Moldovan National Platform

15:45 – 16:00 Coffee Break

16:00 – 17:30 Workshops

Each workshop should agree on 3 recommendations to be written on a flipchart and shared with everyone in the plenary room.

- *What the bilateral and multilateral CSOs platforms will focus on in 2016 – complementarity and joint actions* - Moderated by **Zoriana Mishchuk**, EU-Ukraine Bilateral CSOs Platform
- *Strategies for National Platforms from Armenia, Azerbaijan and Belarus to build relations with the EU and national authorities* – Moderated by **Sviatlana Karaliova**, Belarusian National Platform

17:30 – 18:30 Plenary session - feedback from the day

Participants will share what they have learned from the day in terms of strategies, projects, structures that work and that could be applied in their countries. The session will start with revisiting the workshops recommendations (it is expected that each workshop will develop up to 3 recommendations), then the participants will share what they will take from the morning and afternoon discussions back to their National Platforms.

Moderator: **Natalia Yerashevich**, Director of the EaP CSF Secretariat

Rapporteur: **Leonid Litra**, Institute of World Policy

19:30 – 21:00 Dinner

25 September Focusing on DCFTA Implementation and New Tools to Strengthen CSOs Engagement

Bloc 3: DCFTA implementation: positive results and challenges – key focus areas

9:30 – 11:30 Panel discussion

Moderator: **Yurii Vdovenko**, Ukrainian National Platform

Panelists: **Lali Gogoberidze**, Head of Department of Economic Analysis and Policy, Ministry of Economy, Georgia

Luc Devigne, Head of Unit, DG Trade, European Commission

Denis Vasiliev, Senior Consultant, Division for Coordinating European Economic Policies and DCFTA, Ministry of Economy, Moldova

Mykola Ryzhenkov, Centre for Economic Studies, Ukraine

Denis Cenusă, Expert-Grup, Moldova

Presentation: **Daniel Kramer**, Policy Officer, DG Trade, DCFTA “Trade and Sustainable Development” Chapter implementation

11:30 – 11:45 Coffee Break

11:45 – 13:30 Workshops proposing solutions to current challenges the three countries face in implementing DCFTA and, where relevant, in sectorial policy approximation

Each workshop should agree on 3 recommendations to be written on a flipchart and shared with everyone in the plenary room.

- *Civil society and DCFTA implementation: DCFTA advisory group and other platforms and instruments* – Moderated by **Kakha Gogolashvili**, Georgian National Platform; introduction for the discussion - **Daniel Kramer**, DG Trade
- *Dealing with a clash of market requirements between different trade agreement regimes in the region (Eurasian Economic Union and DCFTA)* – Moderated by **Viorel Chivriga**, Moldovan National Platform
- *Developing effective business associations and support to SMEs for DCFTA implementation and its oversight* – Moderated by **Yuliya Vengerovych**, Ukrainian National Platform; introductory presentation on the EU support to SMEs for DCFTA implementation – **Sinziana Poyana**, DG NEAR

13:30 – 14:30 Lunch

Block 4: Filtering through the language – key issues for civil society to focus on and plans for the next two years

14:30-16:00 **Joint session: Future challenges in the context of Association Agreements and the Eastern Partnership: plans for the National Platforms**

Moderator: **Andrei Yahorau**, Co-chair of the EaP CSF Steering Committee

Panelists: **Mikayel Hovhannisyan**, Armenian National Platform

Sabit Baghirov, Azerbaijani National Platform

Svetlana Karaliova, Belarusian National Platform

Lasha Tughushi, Georgian National Platform

Victoria Bucataru, Moldovan National Platform

Hennadiy Maksak, Ukrainian National Platform

16:00-16:30 **Coffee Break**

16:30-18:00 **Plenary session - feedback and evaluation session**

Moderator: **Mikayel Hovhannisyan**, Armenian National Platform

Rapporteur: **Leonid Litra**, Institute of World Policy

Participants will share what they have learned from the day in terms of strategies, projects, structures that work and that could be applied in their countries.

Closing and evaluation of the meeting