



EASTERN PARTNERSHIP Civil Society Forum

The Moldovan National Platform of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum

Annual report , 2013

Over the last three years, democratic development in Moldova allowed civil society to participate more actively in the decision making process, as well as monitor the activity and come with constructive criticism on the performance of the country's Governance.

The Moldovan National Platform created in 2009, has been fortified and includes at present around 40 CSOs that meet on a regular basis to discuss the burning issues of the country's development. Representatives of the EU Delegation to Moldova are frequent guests of these meetings.

The priorities of the Moldovan National Platform in 2013 include:

- Monitoring the Moldovan Governance performance in the implementation of the Road Map;
- Taking attitude towards concrete situations/policies, advocating for better Government policies;
- Hosting the V Annual Meeting of the EaP CSF and the Youth Side Event in Chisinau.

In May 2013, the Eastern Partnership National Platform came-up with a package of ***proposals for the new Government Program***, which it intends to monitor in the future:

To consolidate Moldova's state of law by de-politicizing the fight against corruption, curbing the captured law enforcement institutions phenomenon, accelerating the reform of the Prosecutor's Office and the judiciary system, the National Anti-corruption Centre, the National Integrity Commission, applying the procedure of confiscation of illegal property and improving the conflict of interest policy.

To support the democratic development of the country by ensuring transparency of political party funding and mass-media ownership, and limiting the concentration of mass-media in a "single portfolio".

To accelerate the economic development of the country by sharing the best EU practices of supporting Small and Medium Enterprises (SME), creating the institution of the Ombudsman for SME, ensuring transparency and involving businesses in negotiations on DCFTA .

The National Platform ***initiated participated in a number of thematic debates*** aimed to identify

priorities in such domains as *preventing and fighting corruption*, finding the opportunities of *collaboration with the trade unions and the National Confederation of Patronates of Moldova in the field of social dialogue and social responsibility*, discussing with the representatives of the EU Delegation in Moldova the issue of *domestic violence* and the problems of *Moldova visa issuance for foreign volunteers*, discussing the preliminary results of the *DCFTA negotiations* and the advantages for Moldova from DCFTA.

The members of the NP brought their contribution to two main outputs of the EaP CFS:

- ***The European Integration Index for Eastern Partnership Countries;***
- ***The Report on Monitoring of the Eastern Partnership Roadmap.***

In 2013 the members of the National Platform made several ***appeals to the decision makers*** of the country drawing the public attention to concrete emerging situations and requiring them to take attitude and strengthen democracy, transparency and accountability of the governing process, particularly:

- The NP expressed its' deep concern about the unexpected and lacking transparency modification of the modality of appointing the General Prosecutor of the country, stating that such appointment in non-transparent circumstances may affects the credibility and image of this institution, creating premises for a low understanding and support of the Prosecution system reform from the side of civil society.
- The NP Drew the public attention to the lacking transparency modification of the election system, creating conditions for the proliferation of political corruption, diminishing the chances for small political parties to access the Legislative branch of power and re-straining the rights to participate in the political life of the country for the active citizens living abroad. Following the declarations of the NP and other representatives of civil society and international community, the above mentioned Law was abolished.
- The members of the NP urged the Parliament to take attitude towards a member of the Parliament Mr. Valeriu Guma, who has been convicted for active corruption by the Romanian court of law, discrediting the image of the Parliament of Moldova.
- The Platform required prompt attitude from the side of the Parliament of Moldova and the Director of the Centre for Human Rights towards a political and having a provocative character declaration made by the ombudsperson Ms. Aurelia Grigoriu at an international assembly in Armenia, while representing a Moldovan public authority.

To ***increase the awareness of civil society about Eastern Partnership***, a brochure has been elaborated, published and will be distributed among citizens during public events; members of the NP participated in meetings in three regions of Moldova and debated this issue during radio programs; A thematic photo-exhibition "Together for a European Future" quoting the opinion leaders of the country on EaP has been prepared for the EaP CSF and will also displayed in the Central City Park.

Hosting the V Annual Meeting of the EaP CSF in Chisinau

A Task force has been created including representatives of the NF Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration, EU Delegation Moldova and the Embassy of Lithuania to Chisinau. The Task force coordinated with the EaP CSF Steering Committee and the Secretariat the elaboration of the concept of the Forum, the agenda, the list of invitees from EU institutions and Embassies, the logo, the venue for the Forum, the catering, the locations for each meeting, the equipment, the welcome kit, the accreditation of mass-media, the security measures and medical assistance, possibilities of having live-streaming of the event, its publicity, preparing a promotional film, organising a photo exhibition, coordination of the work with



volunteers, fund-raising for the logistical issues, booking hotels, protocol issues, the reception given by the Government of Moldova, the cultural event (Vine Festival), etc.

A considerable part of the **activities** of the NP were **conducted in the workings groups**.

WG 1:

- Promoting EaP and debating on the complementarity between the Black Sea NGO Forum and the EaP CSF: fostering dialogue and collaboration between the two initiatives;
- Participating in the brain-storming on priorities in the anti-corruption field in EaP countries, debating on the issue of reforming anticorruption public institutions (National Anticorruption Centre, National Integrity Commission, Prosecutor's Office), judiciary reform, implementation of the National Anticorruption Strategy.

WG2 :

- Participating in public round-tables, conferences, debates on the problems of SME development in Moldova and its' in job creation in a small economy;
- Debating the controversial character of the actual SME statistics;
- Increasing the awareness of the European Economic and Social Committee about the stage of social dialogue in Moldova;
- Presenting proposals on improvement of business climate to the Parliamentary commissions, Prime-minister, President of Moldova;
- Advocating for improvement of business environment for the holders of entrepreneurial patent;
- Participating in the regular meetings of the Working Group on Deregulation of the Entrepreneurial Environment (Guillotine 2+).

WG 3:

- Initiating the implementation of the Climate Forum East project within the Eastern Partnership initiative. The activities in Moldova included: Creation of the Forum for the project development - in total 15 organizations signed an agreement for cooperation in the frame of the Forum; Training journalists on climate change presentations in mass-media and organising round tables on climate change issues in cooperation with the National Commission of the Republic of Moldova for UNESCO; Data collection on the climate vulnerability of main target groups of population;
- Completing the questionnaire for the evaluation of the progress in the field of environment and climate change in Moldova;
- Organising the Danube Day in cooperation with local authorities (Cahul district), National Commission of the Republic of Moldova for UNESCO and Ministry of Environment and Ukrainian, Romanian counterparts (World Wild Fund);
- Organising of the environmental contest for pupils and students in cooperation with the Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Education;
- Participating in the organization of the EaP CSF WG3 Meeting in Chisinau (8-9 July) and presenting the evaluation of the environmental situation in Moldova.

WG 4:

- Advocating with the EU Delegation to Moldova for removing the legal impediments in the immigration control legislation on the status of international volunteers serving in the EU;
- Facilitating two meetings with Ministry of Labour, Social Protection and Family and the National

Bureau for Statistics advocating for the recognition of volunteering as professional experience and reforming the national system of employment registry;

- Planning consultation with the Ministry of Education on the Strategy 2014-2020 on Education and Reform of Vocational Educational Training in October 2013;
- Monitoring relevant policies and EaP Roadmap.

WG 4 was also in charge for **Hosting the EaP CSF Youth Side Event on October 2-3, 2013**

A task force led by the National Youth Council of Moldova and including the representatives of EaP CSF WG 4 from EaP countries, National Youth Councils from EaP countries, partners from Lithuanian Agency of International Youth Co-operation, the coordinator of WG 4 in Moldova, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of Moldova and Ministry of Youth and Sports of Moldova:

- The EaP CSOs in charge for the organisation of the Youth Side Event had 2 meetings: in Kyiv in February 2013 and in Berlin in April 2013. During the meeting in Berlin, at the Erasmanian European Youth Parliament (EEYP), the concept of the Youth Event, its budget and division of responsibilities among organisers were discussed. NYCM (Moldova) and RADA (Belarus) took the lead in the organization and planning the event;
- On 14 June 2013, in Brussels, at the meeting of Working Group 4 "Contacts between people" of EaP CSF, the members of the Youth Side Event task force discussed and shaped the concept of Youth Event and its integration with the Youth Event in Ganja, Azerbaijan and AEGEE activities. The participants coordinated fundraising efforts and roles. At a follow-up meeting in Chisinau, Moldova, in July, NYCM and RADA they elaborated the concept and budget, and sought co-financing of activities.

During the course of 2 meetings between the Moldovan WG 4 with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration and the Ministry of Youth and Sports of Moldova, the location, agenda of the event and activities have been agreed upon to achieve synergy with the youth event in Vilnius before the Vilnius Summit in November 2013. Additional funds for the event were raised with the support of the East Europe Foundation Moldova to cover the local transportation of all participants.

WG 5:

The WG5 organised a meeting in collaboration with the National Council for Participation, the National Confederation of Patronates and representatives of trade unions and debated on eventual possibilities of collaboration in the field of social partnership and social responsibility.