



Progress Report
“Strengthening capacities of the National Platforms (NP) of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum (EaP CSF)”
1 December 2012 – 31 May 2013

1. Description

- 1.1. Name of beneficiary of grant contract: **Regional Environmental Centre Moldova**
- 1.2. Name and title of the Contact person: **Victor Cotruta, Executive Director**
- 1.3. Name of partners in the Action: **Agency for Legislative Initiatives**
The Assembly of Pro-Democratic NGOs of Belarus
Open Society Georgia Foundation
Yerevan Press Club
Centre for Economic and Social Development
- 1.4. Title of the Action: **“Strengthening capacities of the National Platforms (NP) of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum (EaP CSF)”**
- 1.5. Contract number: 304-324 - ENPI
- 1.6. Start date and end date of the reporting period: **01.12.2012 – 31.05.2015**
- 1.7. Target country(ies) or region(s): **Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine**
- 1.8. Final beneficiaries &/or target groups¹ (if different) (including numbers of women and men): **National Platforms, Working Groups, civil society organisations**

¹ “Target groups” are the groups/entities who will be directly positively affected by the project at the Project Purpose level, and “final beneficiaries” are those who will benefit from the project in the long term at the level of the society or sector at large.

2. Assessment of implementation of Action activities

2.1. Executive summary of the Action

- ✓ Partnership Agreements between REC Moldova and all partners have been signed
- ✓ REC Moldova as Lead Partner and “Yerevan Press Club” sent a letter to EuropeAid with the request to make necessary amendments in order to include “Yerevan Press Club” as official partner of the project
- ✓ Addendum was signed and YPC is official partner within the project
- ✓ First instalment to all partners have been transferred by REC Moldova
- ✓ Project Manager attended the CSF Steering Committee meeting held in Brussels on 24 January 2013 and presented project activities
- ✓ The Steering Committee of the project was created
- ✓ The kick off meeting of the project partners was organized on 26 February 2013 in Kiev, Ukraine
- ✓ The regional activities have been discussed by partners and next steps have been agreed
- ✓ The work plans at the national level have been discussed during the kick off meeting

2.2. Activities and results

GAI Regional Activities involving all 6 National Platform (or few of them)

The main activity under this group of activities during the reporting period was focused on the development of the methodology for the monitoring of the EaP road map. Road map monitoring was not a part of initial project proposal but consortium decided to find possibility to support (at least partially) this activity. It was decided to subcontract organisation or individual to develop the methodology. The developed methodology should be able to deliver monitoring results that manoeuvre the pressures of monitoring a snapshot (May 2012 – autumn 2013) before October 2013 while demonstrating independent, empirical-based, expert evaluation and at the same time to **formulate clear, concise conclusions** and recommendations targeted at a variety of audiences, not least:

- national governments
- European Commission and EEAS
- European Council and EU member states

The methodology was developed by the PASOS, a member of the SCF and partners started to create research teams in order to follow the proposed methodology in their countries. PASOS will be also responsible for the preparation of the final report on the road map monitoring based on the information from the countries.

WG3 presented work plan and budget for activities to be implemented and financed from the project. The project team is waiting the proposals from other WGs

GA2 Country Specific activities

This group of activities is focused on strengthening capacities of the NPs at the country level. Within this group of activity the following activities have been implemented:

Armenia:

- Preparatory works for the ANP website has started
- Consultations on Road map monitoring and coordination with KAS project has started
- Draft Statute of the NP Secretariat was developed
- Conference of the Armenian National Platform of the EaP CSF held in Yerevan with 60 participants (member organizations and other interested parties) for 1 day on May 27, 2013

Azerbaijan:

- Research Group Team was established on January, 2013 to promote capacity of different stakeholders and increase awareness related to acceleration of Azerbaijan accession to the WTO. The research team has also assessed advantages of Azerbaijan's accession to the WTO. Paper is available. Media-campaign has started to increase awareness on WTO accession by informing to different actors on advantages of Azerbaijan's membership.
- Research and monitoring group was set up in December, 2012 to promote policy convergence in priority areas in Azerbaijan to support European Integration within the EU Eastern Partnership Initiative. The group members have already conducted interview with different stakeholders to develop a policy paper on policy convergence.
- Online portal has been designed to promote information sharing
- National platform's web-site has re-designed and necessary materials related to the European Integration gathered, grouped and developed
- On-line Presentation of Capacity Building and Awareness Campaigns to Acceleration of Azerbaijan Accession to the WTO Policy Paper, May 10, 2013
- Policy Paper on Convergence Presented

On-line Presentation of Promoting policy convergence in priority areas in Azerbaijan to support European Integration within the EU Eastern Partnership Initiative was done on May 22, 2013.

Belarus:

- On December, 2012 goals of the project and planned activities were presented at the Working Group of the Assembly of Pro-democratic NGOs of Belarus which is the Governing Body of the Assembly.

- In January, 2013 The Assembly of Pro-Democratic NGOs of Belarus discussed project activities with the EaP CSF National Coordinator and worked out plan of future activities for the first year
- In January the project details and the 1st year activity plan were introduced to the Coordination Committee of the EaP CSF National Platform of Belarus
- The Chairman of the Assembly participated in the kick-off meeting on 26 February 2013 in Kiev, Ukraine
- Information about the project's general content and plans were translated into Belarusian and sent to the Belarusian National Platform newsletter. Organizations were invited to send their proposals about general form of project activities implementation (GA1) and about specific country activities for Belarus (GA2)
- Project coordinator held 6 individual meetings with the Belarusian experts within all Working Groups during which future activities were agreed
- In February an individual meeting with an expert from the European Dialogue on Modernization with Belarus (EDM) was held in order to discuss future opportunities of convergence in activities within the EDM and the project for strengthening capacities of EaP CSF NPs
- Round table "Development of social partnership. Legal framework and restraining limits" was held in Minsk, Belarus on 18th of April, 2013, 28 participants
- Round table "Perspectives of media sphere reformation. What can be done by the journalistic community?" was held in Minsk on 3rd May, 29 participants
- Conference "Between Eastern Partnership and European Dialogue on Modernization" was held on 1st June 2013 in Minsk, Belarus , 83 applications from NGOs and 19 applications for participation from mass media
- Design and development of the web-page of the Belarus' CSF NP started

Georgia:

- Signing partnership contract with Regional Environmental Centre Moldova
- Elaboration of detailed Work Plan 2013 together with the EaP Georgia National Platform Coordination Council based on the needs of EaP NP and four working groups
- Participation in the project consortium meeting held on 26th of February in Kiev, Ukraine

- Preparation of brochure on Eastern Partnership, European Neighbourhood Policy, Association Agreement, Social Dialogue and Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement
- Training on “How to monitor EU budget support and budgetary expenses in various sectors”
- Workshop on protection of cultural heritage in Georgia
- Drafting and submitting to the government of Georgia Communication and Information Strategy for the European Integration

Moldova:

- Project activities have been presented at the meeting of the Moldova’s National Platform
- Discussions on the web page content of the NP was discussed with members of NP, web page is updated regularly
- Information on the project activities were broadcasted on National Radio (3 times) and on “Vocea Basarabiei” (2 45 min. shows)
- The first informative brochure was published in Romanian (1000 copies)
- The brochure was translated in English and was shared with project partners
- 3 informative seminars were held (more than 100 participants)
- Meeting with the members of the WG3 and interested NGOs was held (50 participants)

Ukraine:

- Secretariat of the Ukrainian national platform was created (Project Coordinator, PR-manager and financial manager)
- Project was presented to the Steering Committee of the Ukrainian National Platform.
- Work Plan for 2013 project activities was agreed
- Round table (15 February 2013) before the EU-Ukraine Summit was held, position paper of the NP was prepared
- Press conference (21 February 2013) in Brussels of civil society position was held.
- The concept of the website of the Ukrainian National Platform was developed
- Consultations with the interested parties in Kyiv, March 14, 2013. The participants discussed the key areas and issues, on which should be focused the activities of the Working Group 5 “Social dialogue” in Ukraine, 15 participants

- Consultations with the interested parties in Kyiv, April 6, 2013 within the **WG 1 “Democracy, human rights, good governance and stability”**. The participants presented the results of “Ukrainian democracy barometer – 2012” and the results of the monitoring “Movement towards visa-free regime with the EU: where is the Ukraine now?”, 33 participants

- Preparation of the National Platform Digest for the first quarter of 2013 and dissemination of it among all the participants - 150 NGOs