

**Annual Meeting of Working Group 4 *Contacts between People of the Eastern Partnership*
Civil Society Forum**

14 June 2013, Brussels

Minutes

The Coordinators of the Working Group 4 *Contacts between People* Yaryna Borenko and Nikalai Kvantaliani started the meeting with posing the questions that need to be addressed by the group: (i) inclusivity of the group; (ii) how to activate the work of sub-groups; (iii) the WG activities do not cover such spheres as research and innovations that among others are addressed by the corresponding EaP Platform 4; (iv) if and how the group will monitor 2 items of the Roadmap that related to the group's activity; (v) difficulty of finding a common area to work on due to diversity of represented organizations; (vi) presence of cross cutting issues in the group's portfolio with WG1 and 2.

On the inclusivity of the group it was reiterated that those who are not selected to participate in the annual assembly should not be left out of the WG communication. It was decided that there is a need for the new composition of the WG to get acquainted before the Forum in Chisinau so that the group could concentrate on discussing concrete issues there. It was suggested to conduct WG meeting closer to the Forum to activate of the WG activities.

The Coordinators informed that on 20-21 June there will be an inaugural event of the Regional Youth Unit based in Kyiv.

Marta Touykova from DG Education and Culture informed the participants on EU education, youth and culture programmes for EaP countries. The presentation can found here: http://www.eap-csf.eu/assets/files/Documents/2013_06_Platform_4.ppt

Sub-group Culture informed on the sub-group will be present at the Cultural Ministerial in Tbilisi in June; it will also take part in EaP Culture Congress in October and in a regional seminar on UNESCO Convention on diversity of expression in Lviv.

Sub-group Education informed that the focus of its activity is currently non-formal education. The new project financed by the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs will support the activities of the sub-group on development of quality standards in non-formal education. The results of the projects will be presented at the Forum in Chisinau. It was stressed that the WG should have an opportunity to attract external experts to the work of the subgroup.

Sub-group Youth informed about the Youth event that will be organized before Chisinau Forum on 2-3 October.

Priorities

The participants of the WG4 set the priorities for the year 2014 in sub-working groups Culture, Education and Youth:

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In the cultural dimension the promotion of thematic international conventions was proposed, on the basis of which further mutual programs can be developed.

In the sphere of education the sub-working group offered to study the link between formal and informal education, including the monitoring and tendencies of school education that has its impact on the informal education. The positions of NGOs in this respect were recognized of crucial importance.

In the youth dimension the sub-working group put forward several priorities, such as the establishment of annual Youth Forum linked to the CSF, the creation of national youth sub-working groups and the deepening of institutional dialogue.

Communication

To make the process of (internal) communication more efficient the importance of social networks was recognized. It was therefore decided to manage the communication of the WG4 via Google Groups, as well as to create closed WG4 group on Facebook. Further ideas for the future were as well voiced, such as the creation of on-line forum on the web of EaP CSF and elaboration of the common communication instrument to enhance the overall availability of information on the activities of WGs, sub-working groups and the CSF in general.

Structure

The participants have debated the possible alternations to the structure of the WG4 and have come to a conclusion for the time being not to split the WG in more sub-working groups.

The WG has therefore decided to return to the question of creation of special thematic “task-force” groups after the Forum in Chisinau. Instead it was proposed to organize separate *thematic meetings* for the issues of high importance and not covered by the sub-working groups (for example, on pension politics, mass media, peace-building etc.); or to incorporate *other topics* in the work of the already existing sub-working groups.

Action-plans

Coordinators of the sub-working groups were asked to distribute their detailed action-plans by e-mail.

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