



EASTERN PARTNERSHIP Civil Society Forum

29th October 2011

Minsk, Belarus

MEMORANDUM on Cooperation within the Belarusian National Platform of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum

We, the civil society organisations of Belarus, have decided by way of this Memorandum to set forth the activity principles of Belarusian National Platform of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum.

We are building Belarusian National Platform of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum for the development of cooperation, mutual support, solidarity and information exchange among the civil society organisations.

While pursuing our activities within the framework of Belarusian National Platform of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum, we adhere to the values of freedom, democracy, human rights and priority of laws, and express our intention to assist in Belarus joining the common European political, economic and cultural processes. We confirm that the National Platform, like any activities conducted within its framework, is based on the principles of 'bottom up' self-organisation, inclusion, transparency, publicity and subsidiarity.

We consider Eastern Partnership initiative a strong incentive for the development of cooperation between Belarus and the EU and the countries of our region, as well as for our country' Europeanisation and strengthening the Belarusian civil society. We are convinced that within the framework of this initiative the Belarusian civil society and its National Platform represent an inalienable part and indispensable element of the Eastern Partnership's Civil Society Forum development. We see the need for a further deepening and strengthening of the relations between the National Platform and the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum and the multilateral cooperation processes within the thematic platforms of the Eastern Partnership, as well as for the development of cooperation among the national platforms of the EaP countries.

Our objective is to consolidate the institutional possibilities on behalf of the civil society organisations to influence the democratisation processes in the country, the Belarusian-European cooperation and the reform agenda related to the approximation to the European standards in all the spheres of the society life.

The Belarusian National Platform of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum aims to inform the Belarusian public, including the civil society representatives, political parties and movements, civil servants, entrepreneurs, etc., on the EU's Eastern Partnership programme, as well as on any projects and programmes within the framework of cooperation with the European Union. The Belarusian National Platform of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum has been also created for public monitoring and expertise of the mentioned above projects and programmes.

The Belarusian civil society organisations sharing the values and standards put in the foundations of the Eastern Partnership, as well as interested in the development of mutually beneficial cooperation between Belarus and the EU, are invited to join the activities of the Belarusian National Platform of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum.