

AZERBAIJAN NATIONAL PLATFORM ANNUAL REPORT

Annual activities report of the Azerbaijan National Platform
October 2013-October 2014

GENERAL INFO ABOUT THE PLATFORM

The Azerbaijan National Platform was set up in April 2010. The membership of the Platform currently consists of 52 civil society organizations. The bylaws of the Platform were approved in December 2010 and state that those organizations which have attended at least one of the Civil Society Forums are eligible to apply for full membership. Other organizations are also eligible to apply as associate members of the forum. The Platform's Observation Council consists of 5 individuals whom have been elected by the members of the platform. Each thematic group has a group coordinator who represents the group in the Observation Council

ACTIVITIES

Meetings/assemblies/press conferences of EaP CSF Armenian NP

The platform includes social partners and socio-economic organizations such as business associations, etc. Azerbaijani Civil Society members of the Eastern Partnership (EaP) Civil Society Forum (CSF) have initiated some important meetings and conferences recently, including:

- Open Workshops for CSOs have been organized for Civil Society Organizations in 2013/2014
- Strategic Visioning and Planning in CSOs Workshop in Baku Strategic Visioning and Planning in CSOs, for civil society organizations mainly for members of Azerbaijan National Platform, in Baku, Azerbaijan on July, 24, 2013. The workshop addresses following topics: define different ways of thinking creatively and strategically; Explain different approaches to strategic and creative thinking; Apply tools in strategic and creative thinking; Understand and appreciate environmental context for strategy development; Apply models and tools in strategic planning

More information is available at: <http://cesd.az/new/2013/07/strategic-visioning-and-planning-in-csos-workshop-in-baku/>

- "Managing staff and volunteers in CSOs in Azerbaijan" Workshop was Held in Baku. The workshop was organized on 22nd August, 2013 in Baku, Azerbaijan. Trainers were Rafiga Hamzayeva and Javid Nadirov. The main aim of informing audience of the activity of Human Resource managers, the definition of Human Resource Management, its features, the history of HR emergence in NGOs and CSOs in the world and their formation process in Azerbaijan.

More information is available at <http://cesd.az/new/2013/08/managing-staff-and-volunteers-in-csos-in-azerbaijan-workshop-was-held-in-baku/>

- Open training on communication and outreach for CSOs for members of the National Platform as well as other Civil Society Organizations' (CSOs) representatives was organized on April, 26th, 2014 in Baku, Azerbaijan. Representatives from 27 stakeholders mainly CSOs actively participated at the training program. Different training methods including group works were applied in the training. Based on the participants assessment and the course content, course participants were able to learn followings by participating at this event:

- Understand the importance of communication for CSOs;
- Develop skills for communicating with main target groups;
- Understand the main communication channels and activities;
- Understand the function of public relations in CSOs;
- Prepare sponsorship packages, media kits, press releases;
- Develop an understanding of brand building and branding;
- Establish image and reputation for their CSOs.

The presentation file is available at :

<http://cesd.az/new/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/Outreach-for-CSOs-Workshop-Azerbaijan.pdf>

- Open Civil Society Training on Advocacy and Campaigning in Civil Society was organized in Baku, Azerbaijan on May, 24, 2014 with participation of representatives from more than 20 organizations. At the end of the course participants was able to familiar with analyse the policy-making dynamics and be able to identify appropriate 'levers of influence'; Understand the role of research and evidence in campaigning; Understand the various stages of the advocacy planning cycle; Lobby decision makers and relate to the media with more confidence; Embed monitoring and evaluating systems and procedures within advocacy programmes. Members of the Azeri National Platform actively participated in the workshop. Certificates were submitted to participants for finishing the training course.

The presentation file is available at :

http://cesd.az/new/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/Advocacy-campaigns_CSOs_English.pdf

PUBLICATIONS

Research Paper on Azerbaijan's Accession to the WTO has been published and distributed

The paper are trying to respond: what are the essence and main functions of the World Trade Organization (WTO)? What modifications will Azerbaijan's accession to the WTO claimed to be with no alternative bring to our country? Why do WTO negotiations, Azerbaijan has been involved for 13 years, still fail? What are advantages and disadvantages of WTO membership? These questions are not fundamental for us and the point is that here WTO Accession does not have alternative. This policy paper has been prepared to seek answers to the above questions, as well as an immense pile of questions that remain unanswered. The interjections, which were mentioned during a leading European TV discussion on the WTO, might be the best and the simplest ideas and explanations about this organization: "The WTO is a table. People sit round the table and negotiate." Indeed unlike any other institution, the WTO does not set out specific provisions: they are sorted out through discussions and negotiations. So, this document deals with what questions and how they are discussed "around that table". Full paper is available at: http://cesd.az/new/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/CESD_WTO_Accession_Paper.pdf

Brochures on Eastern Partnership and Azerbaijan EU cooperation have been published and distributed among different stakeholders during meetings, press conferences and assemblies. They have been distributed distributed among more than 1000 stakeholders including EU institutions, universities, libraries, think tanks, government agencies, international institutions and etc. Both files have been posted at the CESD web-site:

<http://cesd.az/new/2013/09/azerbajjani-s-rq-t-r-fdasligi-v-az-rbaycan/?lang=az>