

MOLDOVAN NATIONAL PLATFORM ANNUAL REPORT

GENERAL INFO ABOUT THE PLATFORM

All participants of the Forum are formally members of the National Platform as it tries to involve as many NGOs as possible in its activity. Therefore, at present, the mailing list amounts to around 100 addresses. The number of active members that regularly participate in the NP meetings is around 35 organisations.

The National Platform is not officially registered with the Ministry of Justice. The Secretariat of the NP is as a rule based in the incumbent organisation chairing the NP. Activity in the Secretariat is conducted on a voluntary basis, except the part-time work conducted by the Secretary of the NP. The main source of financial contribution comes from two member organisations of the National Platform: (1) the East Europe Foundation and (2) the Soros Foundation in Moldova, as well as the EC funded project aimed at supporting the National Platforms (REC-Moldova), which made possible the objectives of the reporting period.

In an attempt to increase public awareness of the advantages of a European path for Moldova, the NP, together with other SC platforms and alliances, co-founded a broader "Pro-European" platform which may include not only CSO representatives, but also private companies, not politically affiliated public persons and other relevant stakeholders.

BROAD PRIORITIES FOR 2013-2014

The main objectives of the Moldovan Platform for the reported period were the following:

- a) Promoting European values and advantages of the European path of the country (following the process of signing by Moldovan Government the Association Agreement with the EU);
- b) Monitoring the implementation by the Moldovan government of the major reforms and obligations assumed vis-à-vis the European institutions;
- c) Advocacy to improve the implementation of the ongoing reforms;
- d) Taking attitudes towards concrete immediate situations in EaP countries;
- e) Consolidating the National Platform.

ACTIVITIES

Given the diversity of objectives and different capacities required of NGOs to achieve the above mentioned objectives, two types of actions were conducted – common actions with the voluntary participation of all members of the NP, as well as individual actions conducted within concrete projects.



a) Promoting the advantages of the European path of the country

As the EU association process is currently a top priority for Moldova, The NP conducted an extensive public awareness campaign across the country in order to inform the public about the benefits of the Association Agreement and corresponding DCFTA. The Secretariat of the NP, the Soros and Eastern European Foundations, IDIS-Viitorul, Contact Centre, Association of Independent Press, TI-Moldova, Association of External Policy joined their forces to cover a wide spectrum of Moldovan citizens (youth, intellectuals, farmers, business people, minorities, mass-media and local public administration) in their pro-European campaign. Members of the Platform conducted 32 public debates on two radio channels (“Vocea Basarabiei” and “Moldova 1”) about the benefits of the EU association process in such areas as economy, democracy, human rights, anti-corruption, justice reform, nondiscrimination, youth rights, environment, border and energy security, etc.

- A considerable number of pro-European promotional materials were published and distributed, including more than 6 000 leaflets about the DCFTA and AA, 1,000 brochures about the EaP CSF, 800,000 postal cards about the benefits of the EU Association Agreement, 12 posters and 40 000 EU binders. Additionally, 8 editions of the “European Objective” newspaper in Romanian and Russian with approximately 100 000 copies were published and distributed as supplements to many national and local newspapers and 10 informative filters were intensively broadcasted on TV stations with national coverage.
- On 9th of May – the Europe Day, the NP organised a pro-European tele-marathon in collaboration with the national public TV channel. A full-length film on the perspectives of the Association Agreement. produced in collaboration with NP members and also broadcasted on national TV channel.
- Members of the Platform organised a Pro-European auto-tur between Chisinau – Porumbeni – Peresecina, Pelivan –Ciocilteni - Singerei - Balti, to distribute pro-European promotional materials and call citizens to support the European integration as a national idea for the country.

Efforts to inform the population about the economic, democratic and political advantages of the Moldova – EU association were made in a door-to-door campaign, also known as Euro-buss in 70 localities of Moldova.

- Also members of the platform supported numerous activities of the newly created European Informational Centres in Chisinau, Comrat, Balti and Cahul including the “Days of European Culture”, during which materials and information were provided for the “infoeuropa.md” web portal.
- A three-day High Mission of three former heads of EU states in Moldova was organised to share the experience of countries that have recently joined the EU. The representatives of the Mission met with students and businessmen to share their experience and discuss the challenges in the process of association with the EU.
- To reach out to inhabitants of Gagauzia and Transnistria (a frozen conflict region) members of the NP organised a campaign entitled “I am Europe” in three interurban bus-stations (North, Centre and South) where pro-European leaflets were distributed among passengers.

Future Plans

- Some additional pro-European actions with youth and experts from Lithuania are also planned for the immediate future.
- To extend this activity, the NP raised funds and is expecting to sign contracts to conduct additional meetings with people in 60 other localities of Moldova.

b) Monitoring the implementation by the Moldovan governance of the major reforms and obligations assumed vis-à-vis the European institutions

Conducting result-oriented reform in the fight against corruption is one of the main conditions put forth by the European institutions to Moldovan governors. Members of the National Platform are involved in monitoring, evaluating and issuing policy recommendations in line with this process. In the period under review, TI-Moldova, PromoLex, Adept and Centre for Legal Resources monitored the implementation of several strategies and evaluated the quality of policies in Moldova, including:

- The National Anticorruption Strategy;
- The Strategy for Reformation of the Justice Sector;
- Periodical monitoring of processes in the field of Association Agreement; National Integrity System;
- Anti-corruption actions – parts of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC)

c. Advocacy to improve the implementation of ongoing reforms

Members of the NP conducted an advocacy campaign calling for policy improvements, the implementation of Action Plans and action from the Moldovan governors and European institutions during national and international forums in the following areas:

- New security concept in the EaP region – more intensive cooperation in the field of intelligence, defense, anti-organised crime (exchange of techniques, data collection, facilitating the collaboration in criminal investigations with Interpol, exchange of info on strange bank transactions/big money transfers, money laundering, security of strategic objects, etc.);
- Energy security strategy: enlarging the portfolio of energy suppliers; creating common demand for energy to sign common (regional) contracts to be able to negotiate prices, create, where possible, reserves, security funds, etc.;
- Frozen conflict zones - common strategy vis-à-vis these regions, clear message – EU supports multicultural nations and has well set anti-discrimination policies, it recognizes autonomies, but endless fragmentation of countries weaknesses first of all these separatist regions; Debate the capacity of NATO to be peace keeper in these zones;
- Ideology-withstanding anti-EU propaganda;
- Economic security – DCFTA, Association Agreements, Action Plans with clear time-lines, indicators, monitoring mechanisms, financial support; Creating the infrastructure to support the EaP countries parts of DCFTA (information, legal consultancy, quality control, storage, insurance, etc.);
- Accelerating the reform of justice sector, particularly the prosecution system; consolidate the institutions aiming at ensuring professional and independent judges and prosecutors – Supreme Council of Magistrate and Supreme Council of Prosecutors;
- Based on the recent experiences of the pre-election campaign, adopt the Law on transparency of political parties and election campaign funding;
- Combatting corruption and consolidating the national integrity system of Moldova: strengthening the National Integrity Commission; consolidating the capacity of the Central Election Commission to collaborate with fiscal and law-enforcement bodies to monitor the funding of political parties; Consolidating the capacity of the Chamber of Accounts to audit financial institutions.

d) Taking attitudes towards concrete immediate situations in EaP countries

- Appealing to Moldovan governors and EU institutions to urge the signing of the Association Agreement with EU;
- Supporting Ukraine (two declarations on Russia's annexation of Crimea peninsula by the Russian Federation and on the military support to the separatist regions; action to commemorate the victims of these actions; protest in front of the Embassy of the Russian Federation in Moldova).

OBJECTIVE: CONSOLIDATING THE NATIONAL PLATFORM

In terms of capacity building and strengthening the National Platform in mid-term, a strategic planning exercise has been initiated. It is expected that one of the objectives of the NP in the future will be to monitor the implementation of the action plan of the AA. To ensure the financial sustainability of the NP, two fundraising project applications were submitted to the National Democratic Institute and the East Europe Foundation – Moldova. Both were accepted and now are waiting for the contract signature.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

The main achievement of the NP is that, in spite of different specialisations and interests of NP members, it has succeeded to concentrate on promoting Moldova's integration in the EU as a national idea.

CHALLENGES

- Insufficient funding;
- Informal status of the NP;
- Insufficient activities within working groups;
- Insufficient involvement of volunteers;
- Focus on individual projects rather than collective action;
- Lack of activities in frozen conflict zone(s) - Transnistria, Gagauzia;
- Insufficient involvement of minorities.

FUTURE PLANS

In 2015, together with CSOs from other platforms, the NP will begin monitoring the implementation of actions foreseen in the Association Agreement.

