

## Annual Activities Report 2013-2014

# WORKING GROUP 3

## Environment, climate change and energy security



In the reporting period, the WG provided inputs to the strategy of the EaP CSF. Priorities for WG3 actions were identified based on broad consultations. They were further discussed with working group members at the WG3 annual meeting in Brussels. The WG coordinators managed the process of announcing, selecting and allocating targeted funds to CSOs under the project “Strengthening capacities of the National Platforms of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum” within WG3. Further details are presented below.

## ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of WG3 took place in Brussels, Belgium on 29th May. During the meeting WG 3 members discussed several issues in regard to the WG’s activities. The most important issue was how to strengthen the work of the WG3 and make it more important in the context of the CSF.

At the meeting participants discussed the group’s inputs to the strategy for each country and sub-groups.

The sub-groups coordinators were introduced: Climate change - Amalia Hambartsumyan (Armenia); Biodiversity - Dumitru Drumea (Moldova); Environmental governance – Inga Zarafyan (Armenia); Sustainable development - Nana Janashe (Georgia); Energy security – Anton Antonenko (Ukraine).

External experts were invited to make presentations on their activities and future collaboration with CSF WG3.

**Mara Silina**, Programme Coordinator at European Environmental Bureau (EEB) and European Eco Forum, introduced activities of both networks focusing on possibilities to cooperate with the EaP CSF. She mentioned that the network has recently opened membership to NGOs based in the EaP countries and actively promotes networking opportunities for interested organisations.

**Zsolt Lengyel**, Team Leader for ClimaEast project (“Support to climate change mitigation and adaptation in the Eastern Neighbourhood countries and Russia”), presented the project package targeting seven EaP countries and Russia as well as opportunities for the EaP CSF to engage with the project activities. An opportunity under the project Expert Facility was announced – a one-million euro dedicated fund for ad-hoc requests on climate relevant policies for mitigation under which NGOs are eligible to apply.

## STRENGTHENING CAPACITY OF THE WORKING GROUP

The WG dedicated time to discuss ways to overcome the operational and communication challenges obstructing the work of WG3. Among others, the following proposals were put forward: focus efforts at the sub-group level; set up an online platform/ programme to track WG activity, share progress, handovers, updates on upcoming events, collect input for upcoming EaP events, etc, and keep in touch; develop procedure for ensuring that commitments and priorities are followed up; ensure rotation of WG representatives attending intergovernmental platforms and other EaP related events, nominate both representatives of environmental and energy sub-groups to attend, coordinate nominations with the Secretariat; ensure continuity of coordination of groups and sub-groups by setting up an overlapping period of work for old and new coordinators; develop an accountability charter and evaluation mechanism for WG coordinators by WG participants.

## STATEMENTS

The EU Coordinator presented a statement on the regional (EaP region) and global impact of climate change drafted by Nastassia Bekish, WG3 member from Belarus for distribution to heads of states or governments and international organisations ahead of the Climate Change Summit 2014, which, following the discussion, was adopted by the participants. Additional WG coordinators provided input to other statements prepared by the WGs of the CSF.

## WG3 ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE PROJECT “STRENGTHENING CAPACITIES OF THE NATIONAL PLATFORMS OF THE EASTERN PARTNERSHIP CIVIL SOCIETY FORUM”

Six proposals were received within the framework of the project “Strengthening capacities of the National Platforms of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum”.

The proposals were evaluated by the co-coordinators based on several indicators. Two projects were awarded grants to implement small cooperative projects within the EU funded project lead by “EcoTeam” (Armenia) and Sustainable Development Society (Azerbaijan). After a selection of the projects, the WF co-coordinators made some suggestions to the organizations for project improvement. Due to obstacles connected to legislation on NGOs in Azerbaijan, the registration of the project was impossible. In this case, project leadership was transferred to a Georgian organization Union for Sustainable Development “Ecovision”.

Artashes Sargsyan of “EcoTeam” (Armenia) manages a project addressing the challenges of development of renewable energy and energy efficiency in Armenia, Georgia and Moldova”. The project activities aim at improving the quality of public services in providing energy and water to citizens and include production of two guides on energy saving in residential buildings, installation of motion sensors and energy saving bulbs in selected buildings for demonstration purposes, two exchange workshops for government officials and awareness raising activities. The project is being implemented by civil society organisations from Armenia, Moldova, and Georgia.

The second project deals with the “Monitoring of policies and projects in the energy sector in Azerbaijan, Georgia and Ukraine”. The project seeks to conduct analysis and evaluation of the programmes and projects, both underway and under construction, in the area of alternative and renewable energy through consultations with stakeholders and the public at large, the development of recommendations for energy efficiency programmes working locally, surveys to measure the interest in using the renewable energy sources among local business enterprises (farmers, SMEs) and the public at large and organisation of a regional seminar to discuss the survey results.

The projects are to be completed by March 2015.

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## EVENTS

Members of the WG3 took part in the following events:

- IncoNet EaP PSC on Climate Change held in Yerevan on 15-16 May, 2014.
- Eastern Partnership Energy Regulators in London on 27-28 May 2014.
- Seminar on Resource Efficiency with a Focus On Waste Management, 3-6 June, 2014, Brussels and Antwerp
- EaP intergovernmental platform meeting on 23-24 June, 2014, Brussels
- Third EaP GREEN Programme’s Steering Committee Meeting, by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of Belarus on 8 October, 2014 in Minsk
- EaP Platform 3 meeting on Energy security on 23 October, 2014 in Brussels



## FUTURE PRIORITIES

Thematic priorities for the future work of the WG have been submitted by WG participants to the WG coordinators earlier this year (see enclosure). The coordinators emphasised the need for identifying the key thematic priorities for each sub-group. Extra input from WG participants has been solicited and collected by Working Group Coordinators. It was summarized in the draft strategy of the Forum for the coming years.



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