



GEORGIA

NATIONAL PLATFORM IN FOCUS: 2013-2014



In 2013-2014 the activities of the Georgian national platform of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Platform focused on producing policy proposals, cooperation with the Georgian government and the EU structures and active promotion of the European values and communication with the general public.



FOSTERING DIALOGUE AND DISCUSSIONS

The Georgian national platform carried out dialogue with the Georgian government and the EU Delegation with regards to the Georgian EU integration. The platform held regular meetings with the Georgian Government and the Parliament to discuss the overall progress in EaP process, the major issues of cooperation between the government and civil society, development in relevant fields, recommendations for filling in the existing gaps.

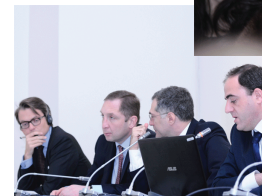
The meetings contributed to providing civil society and the government with more insight, avoiding misunderstanding and confrontation and finding solutions acceptable for both sides. These activities resulted in the recognition of the Georgian national platform as the main actor and a face of Civil Society sector in the country by the ministries of EU integration, Foreign Affairs, Economy, Sport and Youth, Energy and the Parliament. For example, as a follow-up to the meeting with the Ministry of Correction and Legal Assistance, the representatives of platform were awarded special permission to conduct monitoring in the prisons in Eastern Georgia.

As the result of active participation of the platform in the hearings and discussions of the relevant Parliamentary Committees and the executive branch of the Government, 17 recommendations and legislative changes proposed were taken into account by the government. The proposals covered such topics as surveillance, media, visa-liberalization, labor law and youth employment.

POLICY PAPERS REACHING TARGETS AND MAKING CHANGE

In 2013 the member organizations of Georgian National Platform prepared 19 policy papers with the relevant recommendations on specific acute policies. The policy papers tackled such issues as self-government, elections, media and criminal justice, agriculture, DCFTA, innovation, culture and informal education, energy etc.

The policy papers have been presented to the government and the EU Delegation, which led to numerous cooperative meetings between the sectors and became the subjects of the further joint discussions that in turn contributed to increasing the



SUPPORTING AND PLANNING THE EU INTEGRATION

Georgian National Platform in the cooperation with the office of the State Minister on European and Euro-Atlantic Integration, Public Broadcaster of Georgia and other relevant state entities has soundly contributed to the development of the Communication and Information Strategy of the Government of Georgia in the sphere of EU Integration for the period of 2014-2017 and will contribute to the development of Annual Action Plan of the strategy. The main goal of the document is to provide information to the population of Georgia on the advantages related to the European integration process and on the commitments that the country has undertaken in this respect.

The national platform has implemented successful media campaign aimed at raising public awareness on ongoing EU integrations process. It helped to increase the coverage in printed and electronic media and establish communication with the journalists covering EU integration related topics. The platform expressed its concerns regarding the dissemination of the false information regarding EU integration in Georgia and started discussion regarding pressure by the Russian Federation towards the EaP countries. In the public debates, the platform attempted to explain the differences between Customs Union and DCFTA and underline their incompatibility.

