

ADOPTED REFORM OF COMPOSITION OF STEERING COMMITTEE AND GOVERNING STRUCTURE OF EAP CSF that has come into force on 20 November 2014

The 6th annual meeting of the Forum has approved a **streamlined, 13-member Steering Committee** which gives more weight to the EaP national platforms, combined with EU representation directly connected to the Working Groups, while creating **five Working Group Councils, each with representation from every EaP country**, strengthening co-ordination and inclusivity in the operations of each Working Group. Each Working Group council will also have an EU co-ordinator.

It is approved by 6th annual meeting of the Forum in Batumi, Georgia, on 20-21 November 2014 that the current 19-member Steering Committee, comprised as follows:

- 6 EaP country co-ordinators elected by country delegates to annual Forum
- 10 WG Co-ordinators (5 EaP, 5 EU), elected by WGs at annual Forum
- 3 EU Co-ordinators, elected by plenary at annual Forum

be replaced with the following bodies:

- A maximum 13-member Steering Committee, comprising:
 - 6 EaP country co-ordinators elected by country delegates to annual Forum
 - 5 working group coordinators, elected by each working group. Either EU or EaP coordinator elected to SC.
 - Up to 2 EU Advocacy co-ordinators, elected by plenary at annual Forum from the WG EU co-ordinators

This approach draws on all the positives of the current framework - wide representation, covering all Working Groups, National Platforms, and EU representation - but works to make operations more efficient - replacing an inefficient, large Steering Committee with 19 members focusing on procedural and organisational matters, distracting them from focusing on the task of co-ordinating and supporting the activities of the Working Groups and NPs themselves - , and to ensure that all Steering Committee members have clear roles and direct links with the work of the NPs or the Working Groups.

Most importantly, the benefits of the previous inclusivity will be achieved by creating a different structure of representation with the following aims:

- to give more prominence to the national platforms in the Steering Committee per se in recognition of their place as the representative bodies in each of the six EAP countries
- to give more practical prominence to Working Groups by creating five WG councils that include WG coordinators from each EaP country, who meet together between the annual Forum events, and work in a more interlinked way, able to focus primarily on WG matters, co-ordinated by an EaP and EU co-ordinator
- to make much more efficient use of EU representatives, so that each WG has an EaP and EU co-ordinator focused primarily on WG matters, and that the annual Forum elects from those five EU co-ordinators up to two EU Advocacy Co-ordinators who will join the six country co-ordinators and five WG Coordinators on the eleven-person Steering Committee. The EU Advocacy Co-ordinators' direct link with the WGs will ensure that advocacy is WG-driven. These two EU Advocacy Co-ordinators will be a resource for all the WG Co-ordinators (EaP and EU), and one or both of them will attend all WG Council meetings.

- *Five 7-member Working Group Councils, each comprising:*
 - *6 WG EaP country co-ordinators - one from each EaP country, each selected by the respective National Platform*
 - *1 EaP co-ordinator and 1 EU co-ordinator, each elected by the WG at the annual Forum*

Practical implications:

Each seven-member WG Council (six if the EaP WG co-ordinator is already a WG EaP country co-ordinator) will meet at the annual Forum meeting, once early each year to prepare annual activities and WG mid-year meetings and again at the annual mid-year WG meeting. They will regularly co-ordinate via skype.

The 13-member Steering Committee will focus on governance of the Secretariat, and setting strategic priorities, driven by the country priorities of the national platforms, and WG-driven advocacy co-ordinated by the two EU Advocacy Co-ordinators. The Steering Committee will elect a Chair or co-Chair, and will meet three times per year between the annual Forum events. They would also work by skype between meetings.

WG co-ordinators and other EaP representatives will be invited to join for part of the SC meetings (e.g. hosts of forthcoming annual Forum) when the agenda requires, and to reflect country and WG priorities.

The Secretariat Director will ex officio attend Steering Committee members, and the Secretariat would also participate in the Working Group Council meetings. The two EU Advocacy Co-ordinators would also attend the Working Group Council meetings.