



EASTERN PARTNERSHIP Civil Society Forum

REPORT

Working Group 3 “ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENERGY SECURITY”

2012-2013

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Introduction

The first constituent meetings of all the thematic platforms, during which basic principles and procedures of their activities were agreed upon, were held in 2009. Besides, an intergovernmental Panel on Environment and Climate Change was established and started working. The EaP initiative pays special attention to mandatory involvement of civil society (CS) in the ENP implementation. That was the reason for establishing the Civil Society Forum (SCF), which has been existing for three years already, the same as the Working Group 3 (WG3) “Environment, climate change and energy security”. It was created at the 1st CSF in 2009 in Brussels and is coordinated by two elected coordinators — one from an EU country and another from a partner country. WG3 comes out for the best possible implementation of horizontal environmental legislation to ensure environmental policy integration (EPI) as the foundation for the European environmental policy reform and transition to green economy in the EaP partner countries. The reform requires substantial and mandatory reinforcement of environmental governance. In its recommendations approved at the CSF II, WG3 defines the EPI as a goal that must be achieved for industry, transport sector, regional development, agriculture, forestry, water management, budgeting, and adaptation to EU acquis. In the EU, environmental policy integration is legally binding and being achieved by horizontal instruments such as environmental impact assessment, strategic environmental assessment (SEA), public participation in the environmentally important decision-making process, access to environmental information, and environmental reporting.

2012 – 2013 WG3 Platform

At the EaP CSF IV, the CSF Environmental Statement was adopted, which included the following recommendations to officials:

- 1) Start a High-level dialogue with CSF involvement on Environmental Governance reform at the 2013 EaP Summit and ensure bilateral follow-up;
- 2) Extend the Road-map with more concrete actions to ensure legally binding environmental policy integration into sectoral and regional programmes and plans;

- 3) Review the Environmental Governance Flagship Initiative and support more concrete and measurable targets for cross-cutting environmental legislation adoption (on Environmental Impact Assessment, Strategic Environmental Assessment, Access to Information, Public Participation and Access to Justice on environmental matters);
- 4) Link the Shared Environmental Information System initiative with modernising environmental monitoring system programmes and involve NGOs in complex discussion on reliable information provision for effective environmental decision-making;
- 5) Ensure the promotion of environmental democracy values in tripartite dialogues in the EaP countries.

To help implementing the recommendations, WG3 group representatives were participating in the EaP events and developed significantly the analytic basis for environmental governance and energy security issues.

Participation in the EaP official events and seminars

There were no official events of the Environmental Panel in 2013.

Representatives of WG3 participated in the Energy Security Platform (**Murman Margvelashvili, World Experience for Georgia** and **Sevil Yuzbasheva, Eco-Alem, Azerbaijan**) on 9-10th July 2013. They took part in the discussion of concrete infrastructure projects and existing facilities – although in the context of EaP goals and international energy cooperation. It gave a good picture and possibility for comparison of different countries. Based on the experience of this participation, it was suggested that the need to formulate and agree the goals and mandate of EaP CSF participation in platform meetings along with disseminating information should be addressed at the next CSF meeting.

The representative of the group participated in meetings of the Clima East ENPI project in Brussels (**Maria Storchilo, NECU**) and disseminated the report to the group. Considering the objective of the project - transfer and dissemination of information and knowledge on EU acquis – Climate and Energy Policy of EU was presented. Main issues raised during the presentation were trends and prospective of GHG reductions, reduction targets to 2020, 2030; achievements, falls and challenges of EU ETS, Renewables, internal energy market. It was also presented EU budget on 2014-2020. During the discussion each of East-Partner country shared its vision as for EU and international climate policy.

Coordination

The WG3 mailing loop was functioning for the information exchange and coordination during whole reporting period. In particular WG3 agreed on prioritized activities and the budget from the CSF project and started successfully implementing it. Annual meeting was held on 7-8 July in Chisinau with support of the project (second day).

Establishment of Subgroups

During the Annual meeting of WG3, the decision was made to establish 5 subgroups: **1) Environmental Governance; 2) Sustainable energy; 3) Climate change 4) Biodiversity; 5) Sustainable development**. Each subgroup made a preparatory plan to Chisinau in terms of raising most urgent issues and produce assessment reports.

Second (comparative) study of Good environmental governance in EaP countries was conducted with support of CSF project and preliminary conclusions will be presented at the EaP

CSF V. Organisations worked on the study includes Society for Human Development (Armenia), Legal Think Tank (Azerbaijan), Green Alliance (Belarus), Green Alternative (Georgia), Regional Centre for Environmental Studies “ECOS” (Moldova), ICF Environment-People-Law, RAC Society and Environment, UNENGO MAMA-86 (Ukraine). The final publication will be presented in Vilnius Civil Society Event.

WG3 continued participation in the **European Integration Index** (under the section on Environment and Sustainable Development). Team of WG3 experts recently made new index 2013 <http://www.eap-index.eu/> In this Index all countries except Moldova, who was the best performer in the previous Index, improved their scores. Ukraine achieved the biggest increase. The gap between the best and worst environmental performers tended to reduce, although Moldova still remains the leader. Belarus is in second place. Armenia took over the third position from Georgia. Ukraine and Azerbaijan have the lowest results, due to high pressure on the environment and complicated environmental conditions. Georgia is in fourth position being very close to Ukraine. The Index assessment is composed of two major parts: 1) environment, climate change and sustainable development policy; and 2) resource efficiency, pressure on and state of the environment.

Subgroup on Energy Security prepared analytical document **“Analysis of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of energy sectors in Georgia, Lithuania and Ukraine”**. Civic experts from three countries looked deep into the energy spheres, their Institutional, legal, infrastructure and supply issues. They considered strong and weak sides in energy policies also identifying threats and opportunities of countries in terms of energy. Based on analysis of all these issues, experts also developed recommendations for every country.

Subgroup of the Sustainable Development prepared the methodology of the transition to SD for EaP countries and another methodology to calculate and interpret SD Index for EaP countries based on inclusion of environmental component into the HDI. Currently, the group is preparing pilot study based on proposed methodology for Armenia and Belarus.

Possible future priorities

WG3 should strengthen its outreach to the officials trying to lift environmental issues from technical to political level. Climate change pillar would need more efforts in the coming year taking into account the establishment of the Subgroup. All Subgroups should have their own coordinators and re-inforce their efforts to build active dialogue with officials and build the visibility of WG3. The objectives of participation of WG3/ CSF in a whole in the EaP official meetings of platforms and panels should be more clearly agreed inside the group as well as with the EU. Public assessment work would continue based on already achieved results and experience. This particularly concerns Good Environmental Governance Assessment and Energy Sector Assessment. Using ENPI GREEN project network, the biodiversity protection priorities would be better lobbied for among EaP countries Governments.