



## EASTERN PARTNERSHIP Civil Society Forum

### **Activities of the Armenian National Platform In between the 4<sup>th</sup> Stockholm and 5<sup>th</sup> Chisinau Meetings of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum**

#### **GENERAL INFO ON THE NP AND MAIN PRIORITIES**

The Armenian National Platform was established in 2009. The founding meeting of the CSF Armenian National Platform took place in June 2010 in Yerevan and was attended by over 136 civil society organizations (145 CSOs were registered). As of September 2013, the number of ANP member CSOs is 188.

#### **Main directions:**

1. Working on strategic issues,
2. Creation of ANP institutional structures,
3. Researches,
4. Activities.

#### **1. WORKING ON STRATEGIC ISSUES.**

- **Providing a mediation platform for the development of the Concept on the Development of Civil Society Organizations in the Republic of Armenia:**  
Currently, two draft concepts on development of the civil society are circulating in public. One of them was presented by the Public Council adjacent to the RA President, the other – was developed by the Counterpart International Armenia in cooperation with the Ministry of Justice of Armenia. To consolidate the efforts of the various stakeholders involved in this process, as well as to mitigate the contradictions that the two documents have, the Armenian National Platform of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum initiated a public discussion on the two concepts, which was hosted by representatives of both - the Public Council and the Ministry of Justice. As a result, the stakeholders accepted the mediation role of the

ANP, which is to become a platform, where joint discussion would be held and a joint paper may be elaborated.

- Elaboration and registration of the **Statutes of the “Secretariat of the Armenian National Platform of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum”** union of non-profit legal entities
- Refinement and Amendment of the **“Organizational Principles”** of the EaP CSF Armenian National Platform.
- Contribution to the **“RA National Strategy on the Protection of Human Rights”**.
- **Elections:** In spring 2013 the Armenian National Platform coordinated a Civil Society Forum election observation mission of the presidential elections in Armenia. Eight civil society experts of the CSF from outside Armenia took part in the mission. A statement of the Steering Committee was the first outcome of this election observation mission (see [here](#)) and a report, which equally reflects on the municipal elections in Yerevan, held on 5 May, 2013.
- The ANP Fifth Working Group on Social Dialogue presented and received approval from the CSF Steering Committee on the refocusing and broadening of the group’s scope, for including protection and advocacy of social rights in the Group’s priority.
- Development of a **Strategy paper on possible frameworks of EU-Armenia future cooperation**, given the RA President Serzh Sargsian’s announcement about Armenia’s intention to join the Customs Union. **Main directions:** public awareness campaigns; the monitoring of democratic reforms in the country; mapping out the outcomes of the projects implemented by the CSOs with EU assistance.
- In future, the task of the Armenian National Platform should be to develop the ANO, namely through the fostering of small-scale regional, community-based CSOs via equipping them with necessary skills, engaging them in civic activism and mobilizing them towards new initiatives and actions.
- Creating opportunities for cooperation between EaP CSF Armenian National Platform and non-formal advocacy groups.

## 2. CREATION OF ANP INSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURES:

- **ANP Secretariat.** In June was the ANP Secretariat was officially registered The body strives for contributing to the democracy building in Armenia, through strengthening the ANP, providing organizational and technical assistance to the ANP in its efforts that aim at implementing EaP projects, harmonizing the solutions of the country’s domestic problems with the EU standards, ensuring participation and awareness of all segments of general public and carrying out democratic

reforms consistently.

- **ANP Ethics Council.** At the meeting of the ANP in May 2013, a new institution within the ANP - the Ethics Council - was established, which is composed of all the ANP National Facilitators.

### 3. RESEARCHES:

- [The European Integration Index for Eastern Partnership Countries](#) tracks the progress of Eastern Partnership (EaP) countries - Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine - on an annual basis. It provides a nuanced cross-country and cross-sector picture that is comparative.
- **Media Freedom Index,** The research is an illustrative Index carried out in the six Eastern Partnership countries (Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine) in the framework of the “ENP East Media Freedom Watch” project, which is supported by the European Union and implemented by YPC in cooperation with Internews Ukraine and other partner NGOs from EaP countries. The Media Freedom Index depicts the situation with media freedom in the 6 EaP countries.
- **The monitoring of the EaP Roadmap.** The Roadmap is intended to guide work in view of the next EaP Summit due to take place in autumn 2013. It covers both the bilateral and unilateral dimensions of the Eastern Partnership, and is guided by the principles of joint ownership, differentiation and conditionality.

### 4. ACTIVITIES:

- Issuing of the [weekly newsletter of the Armenian National Platform](#) (for the whole reporting period). The special weekly electronic newsletter (in Armenian and in English) was launched in 2010 by Yerevan Press Club and reports on the developments in the EaP and the CSF. The newsletter is distributed among more than 800 subscribers, and has a page on Facebook.
- Development of the website of the ANP (for the whole reporting period);
- **September 20-22,2013** a seminar “Tasks of the Eastern Partnership CSF Armenian National Platform in the Run-Up to the Forum’s Meeting in Chisinau” was held in Armenia. It started with a brainstorming (moderated by Gevorg Ter-Gabrielian, Country Director of Eurasia Partnership Foundation) on the possible frameworks of EU-Armenia future cooperation, given the RA President Serzh Sargsian’s announcement about Armenia’s intention to join the Customs Union. YPC President Boris Navasardian, Co-President of the EaP CSF Steering Committee and Armenian National Platform’s Facilitator, talked about the priorities and aims of the Forum’s Meeting in Chisinau. YPC Expert Arevhat Grigorian presented different studies, administered by CSOs within the framework of Eastern Partnership. Stepan Grigorian, Chairman of Analytical Center for Globalization and Regional Cooperation, told about the activities of the CSF Armenian National Platform carried out over the year. Tsovinar Nazarian, member of the “Army in Reality” civic initiative, spoke about the informal civic

activism movements in Armenia. The seminar ended with a discussion on the Armenian National Platform's tasks at the EaP Civil Society Forum's Meeting in Chisinau.

- **September 19, 2013** - General Assembly of the CSF ANP. The main tasks - the priorities and aims of the Forum's Meeting in Chisinau; possible frameworks of EU-Armenia future cooperation, given the RA President Serzh Sargsian's announcement about Armenia's intention to join the Customs Union, informal civic activism movements in Armenia. Adoption of a Statement on the recent developments of EU-Armenia relations.
- **September 19, 2013** - Meeting of the ANP First Working. The presentation of the Eastern Partnership Territorial Cooperation Support Programme by Advocacy Expert, Lyubov Palyvoda.
- **September 17, 2013** - Adoption of the [Statement of EaP Civil Society Forum's Armenian National Platform](#). With the statement, the Armenian National Platform expressed its disagreement and deep frustration regarding the announcement of the President of the Republic of Armenia on joining the Customs Union and participating in the formation of the Eurasian Union.
- **September 11, 2013** - Meeting of the ANP Second Working Group. The main tasks: public transport problem; issues related to energy security; small and medium enterprises in Armenia; condition of the degraded conditions of the cultivated land in Armenia.
- **September 11, 2013** - Meeting of the ANP Third Working Group. The main tasks: discussion of draft statements related to the climate change issues and the investment policy of financial institutions.
- **September 8, 2013** - Meeting of the ANP Fourth Working Group. The main tasks: the priorities and aims of the Forum's Meeting in Chisinau, EU-Armenia future cooperation, given the RA President Serzh Sargsian's announcement about Armenia's intention to join the Customs Union, informal civic activism movements in Armenia
- **September 6, 2013** - around 40 civil society organizations made an open [statement in connection with the acts of violence against the Armenian civic activists](#). The statement particularly noted that Yerevan Press Club and Transparency International Anti-Corruption Center, the representatives of which were brutally attacked, are largely involved in the activities of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum. "Civic activists Haykak Arshamian and Suren Saghatelian are public figures and carry out their social activities within a legal framework, the statement signatories stressed. During the last two days Haykak Arshamian participated in the civic protests against the announcement by RA President Serzh Sargsian regarding Armenia's decision to join the Customs Union," the statement mentioned.

- **September 2, 2013** - Meeting of the ANP Fifth Working Group. The main task: preparation of the letter to CSF Steering Committee, concerning the focus and conceptual issues of CSF WG5.
- **September 2, 2013** - Yerevan Press Club presented the first results of the Media Freedom Index in the six Eastern Partnership countries (Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine). The research is carried out in the framework of the [“ENP East Media Freedom Watch” project](#), which is supported by the European Union and implemented by YPC in cooperation with Internews Ukraine and other partner NGOs from EaP countries. To inform about the situation with media in the six countries a special [website](#) has been launched. The website will also post the results of the Media Freedom Index, as well as the quarterly reports that are based on the study and describe the situation with media, providing recommendations for improvement.
- **August 14 and 5, 2013**- working meetings on the 2<sup>nd</sup> stage of the EaP Road Map monitoring were held.
- **July 15, 2013** - Public discussion was organized in Yerevan on initialling of the Association Agreement. ANP members, media representatives, state officials, political party’s representatives and experts participated in the event.
- **July 11, 2013** - EU Commissioner for Enlargement and Neighbourhood Policy Štefan Füle hosted an audience of students, civil society, media and think tanks in Yerevan.
- **July 12, 2013** - A General Assembly of the ANP was held in Yerevan dedicated to the planned initialling of the Association Agreement between the EU and Armenia during the EaP Vilnius summit. The [ANP statement](#) on that issue was adopted and disseminated.
- **July 2, 2013** - the [Armenian language version of the EaP Roadmap](#) was published in the ANP online newsletter
- **June 28, 2013** - the ANP WG4 and Analytical Center on Globalization and Regional Cooperation NGO in cooperation with the Turkish NGO ARI Movement and with support from the Friedrich-Ebert-Foundation held a seminar, “The Geopolitics of South Caucasus and Armenian-Turkish relations”.
- **June 20, 2013** - Civil Society Organizations, including the members of the Armenian National Platform of the Eastern Partnership, took part in the meeting on Good Governance and the EU Budget Support organized by the EU Delegation to Armenia. CSOs experience and activities in the area of Good Governance were shared during two presentations held on the behalf of the Working Group 1 of the Armenian National Platform. Varuzhan Hochtanyan, Executive Director of Transparency International tackled the issues of anti-corruption policies and bodies, elections, public procurement and public service. Larisa Minasyan, Executive Director of Open Society Institute AF Armenia, gave a presentation on ICT management and higher education and a specific case of Yerevan city budget formation.

- **June 20, 2013** - discussion of the process of the implementation of the EaP Roadmap monitoring was held with the participation of ANP members and ANP Secretariat's funding members.
- **June 18, 2013** - the EaP Roadmap monitoring methodology and implementation process were presented to 10 officials of state agencies and 35 NGO representatives in a seminar in Gyumri (alternative funding).
- **June 16-18, 2013 - "Building Partnership between the CSOs and Government in Frames of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum"**, seminar held in Gyumri, Armenia, and organized by Yerevan Press Club with the support of Friedrich Ebert Foundation. Main issues discussed: recent developments and current situation with the Eastern Partnership policy; economic component of the EaP Road Map and cooperation with CSOs; building of structural dialogue and cooperation between government-CSOs in frames of the EaP Road Map monitoring; EU Integration Index for the EaP countries; tools of cooperation between civil society and governmental sectors under the EaP Road Map actions; implementation of EaP Road Map actions in fields of public administration and local self-government; methodology of the monitoring and evaluation of fulfilment of the EaP Road Map.
- **June 17, 2013** - a meeting of ANP members was held in Yerevan. The issues related to the event, organized by EU Delegation in Armenia on June 20 on "Good governance and EU budget support" were discussed.
- **June 10, 2013** - a meeting of the 4<sup>th</sup> working group (People to people) held in Yerevan, where the participants discussed the agenda of the Armenian representatives at the CSF 4<sup>th</sup> WG meeting in Brussels, held in June 14, 2013.
- **June 10, 2013** - a meeting of the Assembly of Armenian CSF delegates was held to discuss the agenda of the upcoming CSF Assembly in Chisinau, particularly the short-term and long-term priorities of the CSF.
- **June 4 - July 30, 2013** - the 1<sup>st</sup> stage of the EaP Roadmap monitoring was implemented.
- **June 4, 2013** - an expert group was formed to implement the EaP Roadmap monitoring. A working plan and timetable were developed.
- **Within June, 2013** - formation of editorial group, selection of materials and start of the work on publications (brochures and visualization products of the EaP, CSF and ANP)
- **Within June, 2013** - final formation of expert groups for the work on the Armenian contribution to the EaP Road Map monitoring.
- **May 27, 2013** – General Assembly of the ANP. Issues discussed: adoption of amendments to the Organizational principles of the ANP; the national shortlist of the applicants to the 5<sup>th</sup> Assembly of the CSF; Strategy Concept of Development of Civil Society Organizations in the Republic of Armenia by the Public Council of the Republic of Armenia. The present Concept was drafted taking into consideration the definition of basic CS notions and the three main development directions of CSOs:

institutional-functional capabilities, fiscal stability and strengthening of human resources.

- **May 21, 2013** - Meeting of the WG4 of the ANP. The main issue: participation of WG members in the Road Map monitoring.
- **May 13, 2013**- Meeting of ANP members, taking part in the observation of RA Presidential and Yerevan municipal elections. Approving of joint report.
- **May 11, 2013** - Joint meeting of the WG2 and WG5 of the ANP. The main issues discussed: participation of WGs members in the Road Map monitoring.
- **Within May, 2013** - State registration of the Secretariat of the ANP.
- **April 27, 2013**- Meeting of the WG1 of the ANP. The main issues discussed: participation of WG members in the Road Map monitoring.
- **May 24-26, 2013** - “Promoting Cooperation between ‘Traditional’ Civil Society Organizations and Non-Formal Advocacy Groups”, seminar held in Aghveran and organized by Yerevan Press Club with the support of Friedrich Ebert Foundation. The participants (45 in number) represented NGOs, membering the Armenian National Platform of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum, and non-formal civic activist groups. Main issues discussed: activities of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum (EaP CSF); current situation of the EU Eastern Partnership policy; problems of the development of Armenian civil society; role of local observers at the 2012-2013 elections; non-formal civic activism as a new phenomenon in the development of Armenia’s civil society; opportunities for cooperation between EaP CSF Armenian National Platform and non-formal advocacy groups.
- **April 20, 2013** - Meeting of the WG3 of the ANP. The main issues discussed: participation of WG members in the Road Map monitoring.
- **April 19, 2013** - The General Assembly of the CSF Armenian National Platform took place in Yerevan. At the meeting the Statutes of the Secretariat of the CSF Armenian National Platform were approved
- **April 17-20, 2013** - Translation of the EC Communication on the EaP Road Map into Armenian.
- **April 15, 2013** - Meeting of the representatives of ANP with the representatives of the Administration of the RA President, Administration of the RA Prime- Minister, Ministries of Foreign Affairs to discuss the format of the "structured dialogue" between the Government and the National platform.
- **April 9, 2013** - the WG 4 of the National Platform initiated the organization of a conference on “EU Foreign Policy in the South Caucasus” which took place on in Yerevan. The keynote speaker at the event was the Deputy Prime-Minister and Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of Slovakia Miroslav Lajčák.
- **April , 2013** - Meeting of the Executive Committee of the ANP to discuss the



methodology of the EaP Road Map monitoring.

- **April 5 , 2013** - members of the National Platform met with the Steering Committee of the EaP CSF, which held its second meeting in 2013 in Yerevan. During the discussions, specific importance was attached to the enhancing of the work of the Forum and the strengthening of the National Platforms as well as the preparations to the 5th Assembly of the Forum in Chisinau.
- **March 5, 2013** – the open meeting of the CSF Armenian delegates’ general assembly where the reports of the WGs’ coordinators were presented
- **January 25, 2013** - Yerevan Press Club released a [statement](#) to emphasize the need of holding TV debates during the presidential campaign.
- **January 30, 2013** - the Armenian National Platform (ANP) of the Eastern Partnership (EaP) Civil Society Forum and the “Partnership for Open Society” initiative organized Public Hearings *“Reflections of the Armenian Civil Society Organizations on the Electoral Processes around 2013 Elections to RA President”*.
- **January 18, 2013** - WG I of the EaP CSF Armenian National Platform in collaboration with the “Partnership for Open Society” initiative organized a public discussion on the “RA National Strategy on the Protection of Human Rights”.
- **December 22, 2012**- General Assembly of the ANP Armenian “National Platform activities in the framework of CSF4 in Stockholm”.

## 5. MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS / SUCCESS STORIES

- At the latest meeting of the ANP in May 2013, a new **institution within the ANP - the Ethics Council** - was established, which is composed of all the ANP National Facilitators. The ANP Secretariat was registered some weeks ago, which would strive for contributing to the democracy building in Armenia, through strengthening the ANP.
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- A cooperation framework with the informal advocacy groups was established.
- The letter of the ANP Fifth Working Group on Social Dialogue on refocusing and broadening the scope of the WG was approved at the September 5-6, 2013 meeting of the CSF Steering Committee.
- A joint report on the 2012-2013 national electoral cycle was developed and published by the Armenian National Platform.
- The number of NGOs joining the ANP grew from 145 to 188.