



EASTERN PARTNERSHIP Civil Society Forum

Report on EaP CSF Anti-Corruption Working Sub-Group activities in 2011

Summary

During the 2011, the AC SWG has established contacts with the EaP panel on fight against corruption and representatives of the participating CSOs took part in a number of the EaP panel meetings and workshops were able to provide input to its activities. The AC SWG also prepared and delivered its recommendations on the fight against corruption within the EaP framework to interested parties in the EU institutions and governments and the Council of Europe. Some of those recommendations were taken into account by the EaP panel and the Commission (e.g. those on greater involvement of civil society and more funding opportunities). The participating CSOs from the EaP and EU countries have been implementing several anticorruption projects together.

Main events

1. March 2011, Chisinau, Kyiv and Yerevan: A study on civil society participation in policies to combat corruption in the Eastern Partnership countries published
2. April 27, Brussels: A letter sent to the EU institutions and governments and to the EaP Multilateral Platform 1 with recommendations relating to fight against corruption within the EaP framework
3. May 6, Brussels: Presentation of the recommendations of the Anticorruption SWG to the EaP Multilateral Platform 1
4. May 20, 2011, Tbilisi: Participation in the Regional Start-up Workshop of the CoE/Facility “Good Governance and Fight against Corruption” and the EaP Anti-corruption Panel meeting
5. June 2011: Two projects of CSOs organizations participants of the Anti-Corruption SWG are supported by the Czech Republic MFA within a specific programme for the EaP CSF
6. June 30-July 2, Gyumri: Seminar for Armenian NGOs on the role of the EaP CSF in Fostering Public Administration and Fight against Corruption
7. November 3 – 4, 2011, Strasbourg: Participation in the regional workshop on tools and guidelines in designing anti-corruption strategies and action plans of the CoE/EC project “Good Governance and Fight against Corruption”

1. The report and "Civil society participation in policies to combat corruption in the Eastern Partnership countries" was prepared by the Ukrainian Institute for Public Policy, International Center for Human Development (Armenia), Institute for Public Policy (Moldova) and FRIDE (Spain) and supported by the Black Sea Trust for Regional Cooperation in Bucharest. A policy brief summarizing its findings and recommendations was distributed among representatives of the EU institutions and member states. See: <http://www.eap-csf.eu/en/working-groups/wg1-democracy-human-rights/resources/policy-brief>

2. On April 27, 2011, a letter from the anticorruption subgroup containing the recommendations on the EaP activities on fight against corruption was distributed among relevant representatives of the European Commission, the European Parliament, interested EU member states governments, the Secretariat of the Council of Europe and the Eastern Partnership Multilateral Platform 1.

3. On May 6, 2011, Vira Rihackova, WG1 coordinator, presented the recommendations of the Anticorruption subgroup to the EaP Intergovernmental Platform 1.

4. On May 20, 2011, Regional Start-up Workshop of the CoE/Facility "Good Governance and Fight against Corruption" and EaP anti-corruption Panel meeting took place in Tbilisi, Georgia. Ivan Presniakov from the Ukrainian Institute for Public Policy represented the Anticorruption SWG of the EaP CSF at this event.

Main practical outcomes of this event included the discussion and adoption of the Draft Workplan of Activities in the "Good Governance and Fight against Corruption". As this was mainly decided by the CoE and EaP government representatives, the function of the CSO representatives was to discuss with CoE and government representatives opportunities for CSOs participation in further project activities as well as spread information on the project plans among members of anti-corruption subgroup of the CSF and other interested NGOs in the region.

It was agreed that representatives of the CSO could participate in next joint project activities as part of the national delegations (based on the negotiations with national focal points of the Facility in EaP countries) as well as in national "pilot" activities aimed at providing CoE's expertise in particular sector/field of the anti-corruption policy implementation.

Results of this workshop were also discussed at the anti-corruption subgroup meeting during the WG1 seminar in Brussels on May 28 – 29.

5. Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic announced in the spring of 2011 that it could finance several project proposals from CSOs of EaP countries aimed at activities within the EaP multilateral priority areas. As a result, two projects of NGOS participating in the Anti-Corruption SWG were supported.

The Ukrainian Institute for Public Policy together with the All-Ukrainian Special Board on Fight Against Corruption and Organized Crime (**Ukraine**) created a coalition with the Institute for Public Affairs (**Poland**), Oživení (**Czech Republic**), Centre for Analysis and Prevention Corruption of the Republic of Moldova (**Moldova**), Georgian Young Lawyers Association (**Georgia**) and National Centre for Legislative Research (**Armenia**) to conduct a research on best practices of civil society participation in implementation of anti-corruption policies in the Eastern Partnership and EU countries. This 5 months long project was among those supported by the Czech MFA.

The project's goal is to share best practices of public monitoring of the process of implementation national anticorruption policies in specific EU and Eastern Partnership countries. The main objectives of the project are to

- examine specific national anticorruption strategies in the countries participating in the project,
- examine the role and potential of NGOs in the process of elaboration and implementation of national strategies for combating corruption, and
- examine the best examples of interaction between the representatives of the third sector and the government in improving policy in this sphere.

In the framework of the project coalition partners will produce a research on the experience of each country under study in development of anti-corruption strategies and on the role and potential of the CSOs in this process. The findings of the project will be spread by means of publication and the roundtable which is organized in Kyiv on 16 November, 2011.

Besides, it is planned to use this project as a capacity-building tool to ensure active participation of the EaP CSF anti-corruption subgroup representatives in events of the "Good Governance and Fight against Corruption" CoE/EC facility. The topic of the project's research was deliberately chosen to follow the topics for the workshops and seminars in CoE/EC facility. This allows participants of the project to present CSOs views on the topics discussed by the EaP government anti-corruption panel in the framework of the CoE/EC project.

6. A seminar on "The Role of the EaP Civil Society Forum in Fostering Public Administration and Anticorruption" was organized in Gyumri, Armenia, by the Yerevan Press Club and Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, June 30- July 2, 2011. Representatives of several NGOs participating in the Anti-Corruption SWG gave speeches during the seminar.

7. On November 3 – 4, 2011, a regional workshop on tools and guidelines in designing anti-corruption strategies and action plans was held in Strasbourg, France. This event took place in the framework of the CoE/EC project "Good Governance and Fight against Corruption". It gathered around 30 national experts from the EaP countries. The workshop was focused on discussing national experiences in development of anti-corruption strategies and action plans and identification of common bottom-necks in this area.

Ivan Presniakov from Ukrainian Institute for Public Policy represented the anti-corruption subgroup at this event. Based on preliminary results of the project, supported by the Czech MFA, he made a presentation on CSOs role and potential in the development and implementation of national anti-corruption strategies and suggested some best practices on including CSOs in this process.

The CoE experts invited representatives of the CSF anti-corruption subgroup to give their input during the next workshop that will take place in Warsaw on December 15 – 16 and will be focused on monitoring of anti-corruption policies.

It is expected that inputs from CSOs representatives will be used in the development of the "Guidebook on Designing and Implementing Anti-corruption Policies", and will also be discussed at a regional conference in Kyiv in 2012.

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