



## EASTERN PARTNERSHIP Civil Society Forum

### Report on activities of EaP CSF Working Group 3

#### “Environment, climate change and energy security” in 2011

Working Group 3 of Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum “Environment, climate change and energy security” consists of 33 members. It is divided into two thematic panels. The first panel deals mainly with environment and climate change issues. The second panel is devoted to the issue of energy security. Since the WG3 is relatively small in comparison to other EaP CSF WGs and the topics of climate change and energy security have rather crosscutting character all participants of the group are assigned to both panels.

The group works on the basis of two annual meetings, during the EaP CSF and separate meeting organised in with the support of the European Commission.

In 2011 we were fortunate to organize [additional meetings in Kiev \(23<sup>rd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> June, 2011\)](#) and a seminar in Warsaw on the 14<sup>th</sup> October 2011.

Meeting in Kiev gathered Civil Society Organisations – members of EaP CSF WG3 from the EU and 6 partner countries Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine, guests and observers. The meeting was hosted by Ukrainian National Environmental NGO “MAMA-86” and financed by the European Union and co-funded by the Friedrich Ebert Foundation.

It was opened by WG3 Co-ordinators **Wojciech Borodzicz-Smoliński**, Foundation Centre for International Relations, Poland (Energy) and **Anna Golubovska – Onisimova**, MAMA-86, Ukraine (Environment). **David Stulik** of the Political and Press and Information Section, Delegation of the European Union to Ukraine, on behalf of EEAS welcomed participants and made the Eastern Partnership political activities update. Inter alia, he emphasised on paramount importance of CSF National Platforms active involvement into three-partite dialogue between National Governments of 6 partner countries, EU Delegations there and CSOs on implementing prioritised reforms in the course of the cooperation with European Union. He referred to recent example of Ukrainian EaP CSF National Platform, which prepared the Assessment of the European Commission Report on the ENP implementation in Ukraine in 2010 and initiated the discussion on it with the Delegation.

**Hans Rhein**, Head of Operation Section 3 “Energy, Transport and Environment” of the Delegation of the European Union to Ukraine, on behalf of DG Energy presented the update on the EaP Platform on Energy Security. He presented priorities and highlights of the EU

Energy Strategy and the prospective on providing the security of energy supply. Then, he continued on Environment and Climate Change pillar update of the EaP.

Current priority of Flagship Initiative on Environmental Governance – building Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS) – and the update on SEIS project implementation in 6 partner countries was presented by **Malak Shukurova**, Director of the Regional Environmental Centre for the Caucasus. Then, WG3 Annual meeting participants had questions to presenters of 2 ENPI Projects: on Waste Governance and Air Quality Governance, offices of which are based in Kyiv.

Second half of the day, the Panel Discussion “Shale Gas Prospective: Energy Security and Environment” with 4 panellists took place. In May 2011, US Energy Information Administration published a report on shale gas deposits in 32 countries. It states that shale gas deposits may add up to 40 % to currently available deposits of gas. **Wojciech Borodziej-Smoliński**, Foundation Centre for International Relations and co-ordinator of WG3 (Energy), **Hans Rhein**, Head of Operation Section 3, Delegation of the European Union to Ukraine, **Hanna Homechko**, International Public Interest NGO “Environment-People-Law”, Ukraine and **Andriy Chiubik**, Center for Global Studies “Strategy XXI” presented their view on whether shale gas deposits in Ukraine and Poland could really be the alternative source of supply in Europe and which environmental risks it could entail. Besides economic aspects, issues to be considered were defined as:

- Technology used for drilling;
- Chemicals used;
- Control over quality of well construction;
- Wastewater treatment;
- Informing local population on potential threats;
- Ensuring public participation in the process of decision-making;
- Compensation for environmental harm.

During the annual meeting of the WG3 **the Expert workshop took place. The workshop was titled “Eastern Partnership CSF Working Group 3 assessment of environmental policy reform in 6 partner countries”.**

The expert workshop was financed by Friedrich Ebert Stiftung Foundation and co-funded by the European Commission, the European Programme of the International Renaissance Foundation and the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Kyiv.

Participants from 6 EaP Partner countries together with the representatives from International NGOs discussed the key issues on the Environmental Policy Reform for sustainable development in Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine in the cooperation framework with the European Union.

Participants expressed a special interest to the reviews of independent experts from 6 countries on general situation with the environmental policy development taking into consideration both the EU priorities cooperation and the priorities of EaP Flagship initiative on Good Environmental Governance.

In the EU, the environmental policy integration is legally binding and is provided by horizontal instruments such as environmental impact assessment, strategic environmental

assessment, public participation in the decision-making process, access to information and environmental reporting in corresponding Directives.

Following recommendations of EaP CSF II, WG3 is demanding proper implementation of these horizontal policy instruments within EaP countries, which should serve the cross-cutting consideration of environmental requirements into economic sectors' policies, regional and local development policies, and in the future – would lead to transition towards “green economy”.

Separate expert panels were devoted to the exchange of information on the implementation status of Aarhus Convention in the countries (UNECE Convention on Access to information, public participation in decision-making and access to justice in environmental matters) and also of the Espoo Convention (UNECE Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context) and their protocols.

Also, experts have prepared and presented reports on one of the most complicated topics of environmental Flagship initiative - on the development of Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS) in Eastern partner countries – compatible with the EU system. Transposition of separated at a into the information for decision-making – this is an obligatory capacity of modern system of Environmental Governance, that provides an opportunity to measure an impact and determine an effectiveness of various policy instruments for reducing environmental damage. Only having a complete measuring system, which is based on indicators, it is possible to take effective actions on “greening” the economy.

Expert panel, devoted to the subject of “Green economy”, has allowed the participants to learn more about the global context of reforms for sustainable development, in particular, the preparation for the World Summit “Rio+20”, where this topic is expected to be one of main two in the context of poverty reduction. Currently, on the European Commission request, a group of experts has prepared a special report “Opportunities and options for promoting a Green Economy in the Eastern Partnership countries” which will be presented July, 7, 2012 at a special workshop in Brussels.

“The main purpose of our work shop was to agree by the experts from relevant WGs of EaP national platforms, on joint assessment of environmental pillar of the Eastern Partnership via the implementation of environmental policy reform and governance in 6 EU partner countries, - said Anna Golubovskaya-Onisimova, EaP CSF WG3 co-ordinator. She also informed that the methodology, taken as a basis for this work, was developed by World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and Heinrich Böll Foundation (HBF) in 2009 for assessment of the environmental component of Action plans in the partner-countries in the framework of EU cooperation.

The Center for International Relations organized in Warsaw a conference titled: “Green Economy and Civil Society”. The conference has been on 14<sup>th</sup> October in Warsaw.

In the light of the recent economic crises and rising concerns for environment *green economy* becomes an increasingly popular concept and is being considered as a viable alternative to the currently prevailing economic paradigm.

United Nations have developed a working description of *green economy* defining it as: ***improved human well-being and social equity, while significantly reducing***

*environmental risks and ecological scarcities* (UNEP 2011). *Green economy* is based on the conviction that efficient economy can be at the same time respectful of environment and socially inclusive.

Thus, the newly established term *green economy* aims at creating a whole new economic model based on new assumptions. It is extremely important to introduce and implement the premises of the green economy as widely as possible. However, it is clear that there are some countries, including the EaP area, which cannot afford to bear all the costs of necessary reforms and may need financial and technical assistance from abroad. That is why a continuous exchange between the EaP and the EU countries on that matter is important to push forward positive changes in this area.

Being an essential actor for a proper development of democratic processes, the Civil Society has also a crucial role to play in introducing *green economy* pattern. Indeed, Civil Society and democratic governance are extremely important for sustainable development of economy, based on the rule of law and fair distribution of resources.

Thus, domestic Civil Society should contribute to the efforts towards a *greener economy* by promoting this idea and acting as a watch-dog in the process of adoption and implementation of necessary regulations. Bold reforms can only be adopted when widely backed by the population and the elites. The Civil Society should aim at a broad popularization of the concept among the society and the decision makers, thus influencing the political developments.

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