

ANNUAL ACTIVITIES REPORT 2015

MOLDOVAN NATIONAL PLATFORM

The Moldovan National Platform structure did not undergo major changes in 2015. The number of organizations involved in the activity of the platform remained around 35 participating NGOs mainly in the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th Working groups. WG 5 is currently only represented by two organizations. Mailing list and outreach of communications of the platform is still very broad, with more than 100 mail addresses in our mailing list. Positive aspect about the organization of the platform in 2015 was the capacity to involve the Labour Unions in discussions.



BROAD PRIORITIES FOR 2014-2015

Main priorities of the 2014-2015 period were as follows:

1. Monitoring of the Association Agreement,
2. Organization of the EU – Moldova Association Platform,
3. Conducting campaigns to raise awareness about the AA and the EU Association Process,
4. Developing thematic projects in the framework of each WG,
5. Other relevant activities of the Moldovan National Platform

ACTIVITIES

CAMPAIGNS TO RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT THE EU

Moldova Association Agreement, DCFTA and advantages of European Path of the Country

- a. With the financial support of National Democratic Institute (NDI) and East European Foundation, Transparency International Moldova conducted 19 regional meetings with the local representatives, farmers and SME owners about benefits of EU integration and opportunities that DCFTA brings them. Projects were conducted with the help of members of WG 2. These activities also included a coordinated effort to promote dialogue between local entrepreneurs and the government.
- b. The NGO Platform “For Europe” developed training for NGOs from the regions to advise them on how to properly communicate about the EU and the EU Association process. Also at the beginning of November it will conduct a forum for NGOs which

will address the main challenges of the EU Association process. The NGO Platform “For Europe” (represented by a majority of NGO’s members Moldovan National platform) is created with the support of FHI360 and Slovak AID.

- c. The European Commission project for supporting National Platforms, managed by REC-Moldova provided support for organizing 14 seminars on the process of EU integration and campaigns on increasing awareness through:
 - I. **Publications:** Brochure "Eastern Partnership: Association Agreement EU - Republic of Moldova", Leaflet “Impact of the DCFTA on agriculture in Moldova”, Leaflet “DCFTA vs Custom Union”, Leaflet “Visa liberalisation”.
 - II. **Information spots**
 - Radio: “Vocea Basarabiei” (national coverage) – 5 emissions per day; Jurnal FM (regional) – 5 emissions per day; Univers FM (regional) – 12 emissions per day; Dialog FM (regional) – 12 emissions per day; Radio Media Cimisia (regional) – 8 emissions per day; Radio Prim (regional) – 8 emissions per day.
 - TV: Euro TV (national on cable TV) – 4 emissions per day; AltTV (national on cable TV) – 4 emissions per day; TV Prim (national on cable TV) – 4 emissions per day; Busuioc TV (national on cable TV) – 4 emissions per day; Media TV (national on cable TV) – 8 emissions per day.
 - III. **Online resources:** Support for independent think-thank of young experts www.blogguvern.md Updating and maintaining website of the platform www.eap-csf.md

Monitoring of the Association Agreement and development of the EU-Moldova Association Platform

One of the main challenges for the NP this year, together with the labour unions and the MFA is the organization of the EU – Moldova Association Platform. Independent structure consisted of members of the EU and Moldovan Civil Society created to monitor and advise the government on the implementation of the Association Agreement. In order to establish the platform, 6 working meetings were conducted and EU counterparts of the platform had 2 working tours to Moldova. At the moment the Platform managed to organize itself and to establish the statute of the platform, the organization and to elect its main representatives.

Monitoring of the Association Agreement is further mainly conducted by the Association for Participatory Democracy (ADEPT), Expert Group, Foreign Policy Association (members of the Moldovan National Platform). They provide expertise on economic, legislative and political components of the agreement.

PROJECTS IN THE FRAMEWORK OF WGS

- I. **WG 1.** Within WG 1 several main projects were conducted. Transparency International Moldova, together with the partners from EaP countries conducted a project on Engaging Civil Society in Monitoring Conflict of Interests. Project included an

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awareness campaign and an expertise and advocacy component designated to influence adoption of policy reform in this field in each country where the project was conducted. Another member of the NP, Promo-Lex was involved in monitoring of the local election held in Moldova this year. It was the biggest effort of independent election monitoring. In this context Promo-Lex also chaired the Coalition on Free and Independent elections, which consists mainly of members of the Platform. The NP and the Coalition played an important role in raising awareness on mistakes and violations of the elections.

II. **WG 2.** Representatives of WG 2 conducted several main initiatives, among which is the efforts to promote a flat tax for private companies that provide public transportation services. The tax will be introduced at the beginning of 2016. Members of the Platform provided statements on laws and normative changes that occurred in trade and production sectors.

Another component of WG2 activity consisted of Women involvement in Business activities. In this regard The Association of Business and Professional Women of Moldova in 2015 conducted several debate and advocacy forums on “Business Women - Contribution of raising employment in Moldova”, “Women in Business as a source of innovation”. A forum was also organized with the representatives of the Parliament on supporting women in business.

III. **WG 3.** Activity of the working group was mainly focused on developing a memorandum of cooperation between Environmental NGOs and the representative of the Ministry of Ecology. In this regard WG3 organized the National Forum of Environmental NGOs. During 2015 WG3 had 3 working meetings where they coordinated their advocacy efforts on the environmental policy agenda.

IV. **WG 4.** Youth sub-group of the WG 4 of the NP in the framework of grant scheme provided by the Secretariat applied for the regional project on conducting Youth Policy Index for Moldova, Georgia and Ukraine. Project is led by the National Youth Council of Moldova (chair of the youth sub-group) and by the end of year will provide comprehensive research on the state of youth policies in the 3 aforementioned countries.

V. **WG 5.** NGO Council of Moldova, involving members of the NP organized a forum between the Parliament, the NGO sector and the labour unions on the implementation of the Association Agreement.

OTHER RELEVANT ACTIVITIES

Foreign Policy Association (www.ape.md)

1. Implementation of a project in partnership with the Eastern Europe Studies Centre (Lithuania). The aim of the project – capacity building for WG2 in Moldova and Ukraine to assess the political risks of economic cooperation in the region and to identify and tackle politically motivated actions of policy makers jeopardizing the implementation of the AA/DCFTA, and provision of analytical and expert support based on the expertise of the post-Soviet partner countries, which underwent similar economic transformation, in order to empower EaP countries, namely Moldova and

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Ukraine, to gravitate closer to the EU economic space and to implement the DCFTA balanced trade policies.)

2. The organization is part of the re-granting scheme on evaluation of EU assistance to Moldova within the “Coordination of EU assistance at the national level: Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia” project. The main applicant is the Open Society Foundation, Ukraine. Main objective: to produce a comparative analysis of the overall coordination of EU assistance by the national governments in Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine.

Transparency International-Moldova (www.transparency.md)

Implementation of the project “Supporting the democratic participation of farmers and food producers in decision making process in the DCFTA context”. The overall goal of the project is to increase the confidence and the understanding of policies promoted by the government of Moldova to implement the DCFTA requirements; to facilitate closer involvement of businesses in the policy making process; to increase trust in the entire reform process; to curb skepticism about the Association Agreement, the DCFTA, and in general about the European path chosen by the country.

To achieve this goal, the project sets the following objectives: (i) In consultation with farmers from 19 regions identify the legal, institutional, economic, social, and informational problems faced by farmers and food producers in Moldova; (ii) Conduct focus groups to elaborate policy proposals for a better business environment and summarize the consultation process in a common position paper; (iii) Advocate for a better business environment by facilitating meetings with representatives of the government, international organizations, and other stakeholders; presenting the position paper, increasing direct communication between farmers and key actors in the decision making process and the development of agriculture programs; (iv) Increase public awareness of the benefits of the Association Agreement and DCFTA, competitiveness programs and projects offered by international donors; (v) Build confidence and facilitate the exchange of good practices between local and foreign entrepreneurs.

Association for Participatory Democracy (www.adept.md)

Monitoring the progress of Moldova in implementing the Association Agreement with EU in 2015 (in partnership with Expert Grup). The goal of the project is to increase public accountability of the government on the EU integration agenda by both offering them an independent assessment of the progress and by raising awareness among the citizens and a range of interested stakeholders on how the association process is undertaken. The outputs of the project are: (1) Development of a Progress Report on Moldova’s successes on EU integration path in the period 2005 – 2014 as a baseline for Association Agreement implementation (available at <http://www.e-democracy.md/adept/activities/moldova-politica-europeana-vecinatate-2005-2014/>); (2) Permanent monitoring of the National Action Plan for EU-Moldova Association Agreement implementation in 2015; (3) Production of two quarterly “Euromonitor” progress reports based on monitoring results and their dissemination

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to a range of stakeholders. For more details, please see: <http://www.e-democracy.md/adept/activities/euromonitor-07-2014-07-2015/>.

The Independent Journalism Center (<http://media-azi.md>)

Implementation of the project „ENP East Media Freedom Watch”. IJC is the lead applicant. Partners of the project are Internews Ukraine, Yerevan Press Club, Union of Journalists Yeni Nesiln (Azerbaijan), Georgian Charter of Journalistic Ethics, Belarusian Association of Journalists. The objectives of the project are a) to strengthen the transnational network of media CSOs in the six ENP East states; b) to raise awareness on the situation with media freedom and journalists’ rights in the six target countries through the multi-country web-resource (ENP East MediaFreedomWatch) c) to facilitate targeted influence of international community on public authorities in ENP East countries urging them to improve situation with media freedom if needed.

The Small Business Association

The Small Business Association, together with experts from the Eastern Partnership countries have elaborated the study ”European Economic Integration In Eastern Partnership Index”, available at www.pfirs.org. The Small Business Association also actively participated in the drafting of proposals "Action plan the implementation of the Strategy of development of small and medium enterprises sector for the years 2015-2017 "supported by the OECD.

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