



EASTERN PARTNERSHIP Civil Society Forum

EaP CSF members have identified more than 60 cases of conflict of interest in the framework of a regional project

Conflict of interest is a **wide spread phenomenon in the Eastern Partnership countries**. It represents an open gate to corruption. **Six EaP CSF members from Armenia, Moldova, Poland and Ukraine** have worked over the past two years to consolidate the capacity of civil society organisations in monitoring conflict of interest policies. As a result of their monitoring **more than 60 cases of conflict of interests** have been identified



The project idea of monitoring the conflict of interest (CoI) was born during **the Annual Assembly of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum in Chisinau (2013)**. At the Assembly Transparency International Moldova, a long time EaP CSF member, presented their monitoring results to the members of the Anti-corruption subgroup of **Working Group 1 “Democracy, Human Rights, Good Governance and Stability”** and the EaP CSF members expressed interest to apply the Moldovan methodology in their countries.

Six EaP CSF members from Armenia, Moldova, Poland and Ukraine (TI-Moldova, Stefan Batory Foundation, TI-Armenia, Eurasia Partnership Foundation Armenia, TI-Ukraine and the Ukrainian Institute for Public Policies) have worked jointly over the past two years to consolidate the capacity of civil society organisations in monitoring conflict of interest policies.

Conflict of interest is a **wide spread phenomenon in the Eastern Partnership countries**. In fact, it represents an open gate to corruption. Using the provisions of the Council of Europe and OECD documents as guidelines for Eastern European countries, the partner NGOs focused on advocating for the adoption and implementation of CoI policies, and monitoring their application. The NGOs called on their governments to align with European values and standards related to CoI policies. The project activities included legal expertise, focus groups, opinion polls, monitoring activities, training, awareness raising activities and advocacy campaigns.



EaP CSF representatives **Lilia Carasciuc** (TI-Moldova, EaP CSF Moldovan National Platform) and **Mikayel Hovhanissyan** (Eurasia Partnership Foundation, EaP CSF Armenian National Platform, Member of the Steering Committee 2014-2015) were among the speakers at the closing event of the project “Engaging Civil Society in Monitoring Conflict of Interests” on 30 June in Brussels.



As a result of their monitoring local NGOs **identified more than 60 cases of conflict of interests**. The cases were used to conduct awareness campaign on the threat of CoI for the spread of corruption and the losses CoI may cause. In countries where CoI is an enforced policy, the cases of CoI were passed to the related law enforcement institutions. Thus, the **5 cases of CoI at local level in Moldova** were passed to the National Integrity Commission. For each of the identified CoI cases, the Commission opened investigations.

In all four countries **1151 public servants from 42 central public institutions were interviewed** within an opinion poll. To compare the opinions of the public servants and the ones of the heads of the monitored institutions official requests of information were submitted to **51 central public institutions**. The partner NGOs trained **66 local NGOs in four countries**, providing them with **10 small grants** to monitor CoI in local public administration. The monitoring process was accompanied by extensive public awareness (more than 80 events were organised with the **participation of about 3000 people**) and advocacy campaigns.

The acquired expertise on legal framework proved that the legal framework is not perfect in any of the four countries. Policy recommendations vary from creating specialised institutions in charge for CoI policies in Armenia and Ukraine to concrete recommendations to improve the mechanism of the policy implementation in Moldova and Poland.