

Annual Activities Report 2015

November 2014 – end of October 2015

Working Group 3

Environment, climate change and energy security

PRIORITY ISSUES OF THE WG3

PRIORITY ISSUE 1 ENERGY SECURITY

Strengthening the role and capacity of Civil Society in the promotion of synergies and cooperation between EU and EaP countries in the field of energy security. Definition of specific criteria of Energy Security including geopolitical, regulatory and infrastructure aspects, exploration of synergies in this field between the EU and EaP countries and development of monitoring tools.



PRIORITY ISSUE 2 ENVIRONMENT

Strengthening the horizontal cooperation between the WGs and capacity building of the EaP CSOs in elaboration and monitoring of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) as effective instruments for public participation in the decision making process regarding environment protection and sustainable development.

PRIORITY ISSUE 3 CLIMATE CHANGE

Ensuring public participation in the development of the prospective national defined contributions (INDC) and preparations for the OP21 in Paris (Preparation of national positions for a new international agreement on climate change).

WG3 ACTIVITIES AND KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Skype call/ preliminary meeting of the WG3 Council

The new members of the WG3 Council conducted their first online meeting on 24th February 2015. The participants were informed about decisions and guidance of the EaP CSF Steering Committee. They agreed on the next steps to be taken by the WG3 Council, the rules of communication between the members of the WG3 Council and the rules of selection of WG3 representatives in events organized by the EaP national and international institutions. They discussed the list of priorities of WG3 for 2015 and the agenda of the next WG3 council meeting. The participants exchanged ideas for partnership projects to be submitted for re-granting, advocacy and capacity building activities.

Meeting of the WG3 Council

The meeting took place on 3 of April 2015 in Brussels, Belgium. The members discussed and agreed the WG3 Priorities for 2015 in three areas: Energy Security, Environment and Climate Change. The Secretariat provided information about the Re-granting process. The participants also discussed the ENP Review Input Process and the Contribution to the Riga Summit.

Annual Meeting of WG3

The members of WG3 conducted a meeting on June 5th 2015 in Brussels. The aim of the meeting was to improve the WG3 capacity, to develop common understanding on the joint actions of the Forum in areas of environment, climate change and energy security. The participants were provided with information and discussed issues of common interest including: EaP CSF actions in 2015 Platform 3 and challenges and priorities for EaP countries in environment and climate change policies. They also discussed how to improve the work of WG3 and strengthen the joint actions in EaP countries. Presentations on monitoring of ISO standards and a case study on Bulgaria's environmental policy before and after joining the EU were provided. Speakers from the EC DG Energy and DG NEAR provided helpful presentations.

MEETINGS ATTENDED BY WG3 MEMBERS

Meeting of EaP CSF for EaP Platform 3, EUSEW

The meeting took place from 17th to 19th June 2015 in Brussels. The three day program included an ad-hoc workshop with International financing institutions on infrastructure and meeting of Platform 3 on Energy Security. Two representatives of WG3 from Armenia and Georgia attended the event. Presentations included a review and discussion of the Energy system and the EU Energy Union. The participants boosted their knowledge on IFI requirements for the long term power purchasing agreement and the EU free market development principles, approaches of the financial institution for financing projects on energy security, investments in infrastructure and interconnectivity, cooperation between financial institutions and countries. The sessions on Energy Security included very useful reviews on: energy policies in Eastern Europe, EU support for energy in EaP countries, the opening of markets and diversification, renewable energy.

3rd Meeting of Eastern Partnership Panel on Environment and Climate Change

The meeting took place from 6th to 7th October 2015 in Brussels. Three representatives of WG3 from Armenia, Belarus and Georgia took part in the meeting. The participants discussed the role of civil society in the EaP region, hence increased participation of the CSF. The speakers presented key issues related to the following areas: (1) Environment: priorities and regional cooperation within the EaP, financial assistance to EaP, (2) Climate Change: nationally determined contributions to the Paris Agreement, regional climate cooperation including project Clima East, (3) Cooperation with CSOs.

TRAININGS ATTENDED BY WG3 MEMBERS

Training course on Policy Analysis and Advocacy for Environmental Activists

The training took place from 11th to 13th February 2015 in Budapest, Hungary. Organised by the Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe (REC) and the CEU School of Public Policy (SPP), the two-day training for 25 environmental activists from Moldova and Belarus combined interactive sessions and discussions on environmental innovation and

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advocacy. The course included activities and assignments designed to provide participants with analytical tools to engage in informed policy advocacy. The workshop focused on the following topics: (1) Policy Development, (2) Citizen Participation and Civil Society Development, (3) Networking and Advocacy for Policy Change, (4) Advocacy and Internet Activism.

CONFERENCES/WORKSHOPS ATTENDED BY WG3 PARTICIPANTS

4th Workshop of EaP Energy regulatory bodies

The workshop took place from 26th to 27th March 2015 in Chisinau, Moldova. One representative of WG3 from Ukraine and Moldova attended the workshop. The workshop was dedicated to the new regulatory framework currently under consideration and development in the EU. Some of the issues related to regulatory issues that the WG3 and the Secretariat should



follow up as a result of the meeting are: bringing best practices and experience to the national level, advocating to learning and participating in EU works, distributing information about events, possible cooperation and participation opportunities, developing a framework of future transmission operator cooperation, simplification and unification of tariff structure and approach, establishment of a clear regulatory environment for bilateral and multilateral cooperation between EaP members.

Green Week Conference and seminar on Biodiversity and Nature Protection

The conference took place from 2nd to 5th June 2015 in Brussels. Three representatives of WG3 from Armenia, Georgia and Moldova attended the workshop. WG3 Moldova provided a presentation on biodiversity and nature protection in Moldova. The Green week included presentations, round tables, exhibitions on many nature and biodiversity fields with a focus on: (1) EU Biodiversity Strategy; Habitats and Birds Directives; Invasive Alien Species Regulation; Emerald Network under the Bern Convention, (2) Nature protection – the state of nature protection in the EaP countries; best assistance from the EU in implementing Association Agreement provisions on nature protection for Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine, or other desired forms of assistance, (3) LIFE projects – aims, achievements, best examples; LIFE ELIA project.

Workshop on Energy Union and Energy Security in EaP Countries

The workshop took place on 20th October in Brussels. The event was organised by the project team of the EaP CSF regranting project. Representatives of 6 EaP WG3 took part in the workshop. Representatives of EC DG Energy, DG Neighbourhood and enlargement negotiations, Division of Eastern Partnership, Regional Cooperation and OSCE attended the workshop. The participants discussed project results, adopted conclusions and recommendations for EaP countries and the EC for future cooperation.

WG3 PROJECTS

The members of WG3 elaborated two project proposals to be submitted for granting by the EC re-granting project. The WG3 coordinators recommended both proposals to be financed by the project. The Selection panel selected both to be financed, namely:

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- Project: “Understanding and facilitating European energy security policy In EaP countries”.** Project leader is Think Tank “World Experience for Georgia” (WEG). Project partners are CSOs from Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine and Azerbaijan. The general project objective is: to increase awareness and capacity of EaP CSOs in understanding the new EU energy initiative - Energy Union and thus to enable synergies and cooperation between the EU and EaP countries for assuring purpose-oriented practical research in energy security. Project members included the following activities: consultation meetings with stakeholders in each country to stimulate common interest and define priorities; elaborating country research papers on energy policies, legislation and recommendations for cooperation in the region and with the Energy Union; conducting country workshops for presentation and discussion of the results; conducting a workshop in Brussels with the participation of DG Energy officials to discuss project findings.
- Project: “Eastern Partnership on the road to Paris: assessing national contributions towards combating climate change”.** Project leader is Green network, Belarus. Project partners are CSOs from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine. The project objective is: Development of a lobbying tool towards COP21 for civil society actors in EaP countries via maintenance of the independent public assessment of Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) and plans for further development of national climate policies in the EaP region in post-Kyoto period. The project application was withdrawn by the project consortium due to serious changes in the timeline of the selection process that could significantly affect the expected results of the project. (The Governments have had their own timeline of INDC development process and the project was planned accordingly. The project team expected to be prepared to participate in the process on the stage when it was really possible to influence the INDC drafts. Due to delays in the selection process it was unlikely to be possible to prepare all the required analysis in good quality in all 6 countries on time. Therefore, the leading partner could not take the responsibility for the project implementation in the manner as it was designed. The leading partner proposed the other partner organizations to take over this responsibility but no one expressed interest. Additionally, a significant reduction in the budget could make project implementation much more difficult than expected.
- Project: “Integrated hotspots management and saving the living Black Sea ecosystem - HOT BLACK SEA”**, funded by the OP “Black Sea” and ENPI. The project was implemented in 2014-2015. Representatives of CSOs from Georgia, Ukraine, Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey took part in the project. The main objective of the project is protection of Black Sea ecosystems.
- Project “CLIMA EAST”.** EU supported a package of projects implemented in cooperation with EaP CSF and Climate Action Network EECCA. The project assists the EaP countries and Russia in approaches to climate change mitigation and adaptation.



ISSUES/TOPICS RAISED WITH DECISION-MAKERS

- Energy security and Energy Union (6 WG3);
- Performance of requirements of EU directives on energy policy (WG3 Georgia);
- Energy policy developments and the progress of internal reforms in the gas market, electricity market, energy regulator, and gas production (WG3 Ukraine);
- Biodiversity, nature protection and corruption (WG3 Armenia);
- Environment and climate change (WG3 Armenia, Belarus, Georgia);
- Harmonisation of the national environmental legislation with the EU environmental legislation (WG3 Ukraine);
- Changes in the environmental legislation on water and EIA (WG3 Georgia);
- Environmental policy in Tbilisi (WG3 Georgia).

ISSUES/TOPICS RAISED WITH THE BROADER PUBLIC

- Improvement of public accountability with regard to energy sector payments and spending (WG3 Ukraine);
- Improvement of the energy transparency (WG3 Ukraine).

ISSUES/TOPICS RAISED WITH THE EU

- Energy policy, consultations with EU Delegation in Ukraine.

ISSUES ON WHICH THE WG WAS CONSLUTED BY THE EU DELEGATION/ORGANISATIONS

- Annual meeting of the WG3: Speakers from EC DG Energy and DG NEAR;
- Meeting of EaP CSF for EaP Platform 3, EUSEW: Speakers from International financing Institutions on infrastructure;
- 3rd Meeting of EaP panel on Environment and Climate Change: Speakers from EU;
- Training course on Policy Analysis and Advocacy for Environmental Activists: Speakers from REC, Budapest and CEU School of Public Policy, Budapest;
- 4th Workshop of EaP Energy regulatory bodies in Chisinau: Speakers from EU organizations;
- Seminar on Biodiversity and Nature Protection in Brussels: Speakers from EU organizations;
- Training on Strategic environmental assessment and Environmental impact assessment, Speaker from EU organization;
- Euro integration - DCEFTE and visa liberation: with representatives of the Committee of Euro integration (WG3 Georgia).

STUDIES/ASSESEMENTS/REPORTS/RECOMMENDATIONS PRODUCED BY THE WG AND DELIVERED TO POLICY-MAKERS

- Six Country policy and research Policy Papers on Energy security And Energy Union Perspectives; recommendations on bilateral and multilateral relations between EU and EaP countries in energy sector in terms of Energy Union functioning (6 WG3);
- Researches on different issues of European Integration: Analysis of the outcomes related to the environment during the implementation of the Association Agreement (WG3 Ukraine).

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RECOMMENDATIONS/STUDIES TAKEN ONBOARD BY THE DECISION-MAKERS

- Recommendations to the draft Law on Environment Impact Assessment (WG3 Ukraine);
- Recommendations to the draft Law on gas market (WG3 Ukraine);
- Recommendations to the draft Law on energy market and energy regulators (WG3 Ukraine).

EVENTS ORGANISED BY THE WG

- Consultation meetings with stakeholders in each country to stimulate common interest and define priorities in the area of energy policy (6 WG3);
- Country workshops to present country research papers on energy policies, legislation and recommendations for cooperation in the region and with the Energy Union (6 WG3);
- Discussion with representatives of the Ministries of Environment and Energy (WG3 Ukraine);
- Two conferences on public accountability in the energy sector (WG3 Ukraine);
- Three trainings on energy transparency for regional NGOs and authorities (WG3 Ukraine);
- Training on Hot Spots methodology and Data Base of the Black Sea (WG3 Georgia, WG3 Ukraine);
- Webinar on INDC development process in EAP countries and opportunities for public participation, (EaP CSF, WG3 Belarus).

The above events were attended by more than 300 people.

