

UKRAINE



NATIONAL PLATFORM IN FOCUS: 2013-2014

The Ukrainian national platform of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Platform has achieved some ponderable results in the fields of advocacy and legislation propositions. The Platform has significantly contributed to the progress in the EU-Ukraine cooperation, played an important role bringing together the civil society and newly elected Ukrainian government and engaged in an efficient dialogue with the EU institutions regarding the implementation of the Association Agreement in Ukraine.

ADVOCATING FOR THE EU-UKRAINE TRADE DEAL

In 2013, strong efforts of the Platform were directed at advocating for EU-Ukraine Association Agreement (AA). The national platform delivered a clear conceptual position on signing the deal at the time when neither the government, nor big businesses were clear about their support of Ukraine's EU integration. It remained supportive towards the EU-Ukraine trade deal even after the decision of the president Viktor Yanukovich not to sign it in November 2013 and initiated the symbolic signing of the AA between the EU and the Ukrainian civil society.

The platform has united its efforts on the policy and advocacy work that were aimed at forming the public and expert's opinions in regards of signing the AA with the EU, at a time when it was not clear if Ukraine will join the Customs Union or choose the path of European integration. One of the tools used to promote European integration among the Ukrainian citizens was helping to develop and presenting a visa-liberalization index. This index showed Moldova as a leader of the race in implementing democratic pro-European reforms, which led the country to getting a visa-free regime with the EU.

In 2014, the Ukrainian National Platform engaged in the dialogue with the European Economic and Social Committee in order to establish the EU-Ukraine civil society platform as stipulated in the agreement. The Platform is taking part in the negotiation process of identifying stakeholders and shaping the design of this new body, as well as providing the legal analysis of the formulas used in AA and putting its suggestions on the table.

BRIDGING CIVIL SOCIETY AND THE GOVERNMENT

During the Euromaidan, the Platform was focusing on providing information on accounts and assets of Ukrainian key political figures in the EU to the media, opinion-makers and the public in the EU and Ukraine. The participants of the Platform got involved in the Euromaidan activities by contributing to the work of various groups and welcomed many new faces as the result of it.

Following the Euromaidan in February 2014, representatives of the national platform held meetings with the EU Foreign Policy Chief Catherine Ashton and European Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighborhood Policy Stefan Füle, which were later translated into reports on violation of human rights and distributed to international media and civil society.

Since the beginning of the crisis in Ukraine, the National Platform had been working to unite the bodies advocating for territorial integrity of Ukraine and fostering their cooperation with the new government. It has also established efficient dialogue with parliamentary fractions in the country, which resulted in legislative proposals, such as public procurement, anti-corruption and public

broadcasting laws. The Platform submitted the package of amendments to the Ukrainian social policy and soundly contributed to the development of the Concept of the reform of local and territorial division that had been later adopted in the country.

An active role had been played by the Platform in advocating for the early parliamentary elections and the monitoring of the Presidential elections in Ukraine.

