

## Annual Activities Report 2013-2014

# WORKING GROUP 2

## Economic Integration and convergence with the EU Policies

### STRUCTURE OF THE WORKING GROUP

WG2 includes the following subgroups:

1. SME policy: coordinator- Gagik Poghosyan, Small and Medium Business Foundation
2. Agriculture and development of agricultural areas: coordinator Sargis Sedrakyan, "Farmers Movement" NGO
3. Alternative energy sources: coordinator Karen Chilingaryan, "Consumers' Consulting Centre" NGO
4. Trade and regulatory cooperation in the frameworks of Deep and comprehensive free trade agreement: coordinator Tatul Manaseryan, "Alternative" research centre NGO

During the course of 2013-2014 the following subgroups and organizations have been added to the WG 2:

5. Regional, border and cross-border cooperation: coordinator Movses Aristakesyan, Economic rights centre NGO
  6. Integration to EU ICT infrastructures: coordinator Gayane Tadevosyan, "Centre of Women accountants" NGO
- The cooperation of the ANP WG2 with the EaP ANP secretariat are coordinated by the coordinator of the working group Karen Chilingaryan.



### WORKING GROUP PRIORITIES 2013-2014

With the accession of RA to the Eurasian Economic Union there have been drastic changes in the country in 2013 -2014. In this regard, the ANP came up with a statement condemning RA's accession. Nevertheless, EaP ANP prioritizes economic integration with the EU countries and is ready to continue the process of integration started earlier.

### WG2 ACTIVITIES - STATEMENTS, RESEARCH, ADVOCACY, DIALOGUE WITH AUTHORITIES

ANP WG2 subgroup of "Agriculture and development of agricultural areas" held meetings and discussions of the following topics:

1. Agricultural policy in RA: advantages and disadvantages
2. The future of degraded lands
3. Assessment of the effectiveness of the EU projects in Armenia; possible participation of the ANP members in the implementation/monitoring of these projects
4. Land consolidation in RA: advantages and disadvantages of the policy

Along with the above mentioned WG 2 has actively participated in various events organized by the EaP ANP, with participation of representatives of authorities, EU delegation to Armenia, and other structures.

Consumer's consulting center NGO continues its campaign for renewable energy sector development and is cooperating with organizations dealing with solar water heating systems. Now, when 5 of the six EaP countries have energy security problems and depend on Russia's energy resources, this issue has gained more importance.

WG2 members “Alternative” research centre NGO, “Consumers consulting centre” NGO, “Farmer’s movement” NGO conducted a research project of “EaP economic integration index” which is a part of the larger project implemented with the participation of all six EaP countries.

## MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS

ANP WG2 has a competent team of civil society professionals, and new member organizations are becoming part of it each year. The team is ready to conduct expert studies in cooperation with EU, which, however, at times can be hindered by the RA’s membership in the Eurasian union.

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## CHALLENGES

ANP WG2 prioritizes the Following challenges for the development of the country:

- The country’s food security, food safety
- Development of small and medium business
- Energy security

## FUTURE PLANS

ANP WG2 prioritizes future projects for Armenian-EU rapprochement/integration and wishes to enlarge the frameworks of cooperation with EaP member countries, as well as with correspondent agencies of EU countries, specifically in the field of energy security.



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