

Annual Activities Report 2013-2014

## WORKING GROUP 5

### Social & Labour Policies and Social Dialogue



#### BROAD PRIORITIES FOR 2013-2014

- Amending laws concerning social dialogue and social services
- Sharing experience in social dialogue model between EU and partner countries in the framework of AA implementation
- The establishment of the EU-Ukraine Civil Society Platform

#### ACTIVITIES

a. The annual meeting of Working Group 5 on social dialogue and social and labour policies took place in Brussels on 19 February 2014, bringing together over thirty participants from six Eastern Partnership countries and the EU.

The meeting provided space for exchanging views on the status of the social policies, corporate social responsibility as well as issues of social inclusion in the Eastern Partnership countries.

The session on the strategy discussion highlighted the need to monitor and review legislation in the area of social policy in the Eastern Partnership countries. The participants also provided recommendations on the approximation of legislation with EU and international norms and standards as defined by the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights, the European Social Charter and the International Labour Organisation.

b. Preparation for a round table meeting dedicated to social dialogue.

The main purpose of this meeting is to review and learn principles of social dialogue in Eastern Partnership countries – Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine, and also in Lithuania and Latvia.

c. Visit of Ukrainian NP of EaP CSF delegation to Vilnius in cooperation with Lithuanian trade union “Solidarumas” has been organised.

The main goal of the visit was to initiate a platform for experience sharing between Ukraine and Lithuania. Lithuania’s post-Soviet development is able to offer a unique model for social, economic and political changes, particularly in the sphere of social dialogue. This includes social security, professional education, changes in the labour market to strengthen independent trade unions and business organisations, among other areas.

In addition, the working group has applied to participate in the “European Dimension: Strengthening Social Dialogue in Ukraine” project organised by the Vidrodenia Foundation. If approved, an expert group will have the possibility to visit Lithuania to study its model of social development. The visit has been partly financed by Lithuanian trade union “Solidarumas”.

## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

### Activities of the Round Table project:

- Invited experts from Moldova, Georgia, Lithuania and Latvia to participate in the round table discussion;
  - Created a preliminary agenda
- Cooperation with partners in Lithuania
- The LTU “Solidarumas” organized humanitarian aid for Ukrainian people (trade unions members who were affected by war)
  - Expert Group launched
- Working on a report entitled “Social dialogue Development Strategy” - which will be presented at both the Roundtable in Kiev and the WG5 session in Batumi

## FUTURE PLANS

In the framework of the project “Strengthening Capacities National Platforms of EaP CSF”, WG 5 of the Ukrainian platform cooperates with civil society institutions and civil organizations on the design of the EU-Ukraine Civil Society Platform Ukraine-EU (платформа Громадянського суспільства Україна-ЄС). The main purpose of this platform is to assist in the process of implementation of the Association Agreement.

### Preparations:

- Agenda of CSP Ukraine - EU Constitutional Assembly and date of the meeting
- Prepared criterions of the civil society institutions representativeness in CSP U-EU
- Adopted the working group plan.

Project studying the Swedish Social Dialogue model



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