

Impact of reforms on SME development in Eastern Partnership Countries

Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum: Working Group 2 Conference

Agenda

9-10 July 2015, Brussels

Renaissance Brussels Hotel

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Introduction

On 27 March 2015, the Working Group 2 Council met to agree priorities for the WG for the regranting process, to discuss input on the European Neighbourhood Policy review process and to plan the meeting of the Working Group. Discussions were held drawing on the activities, priorities and issues of common interest of CSOs active in this area in the Eastern Partnership Countries, based on WG 4 activities in National Platforms. It was decided to try to organise the meeting after the regranting process is finished so that the selected projects can also be presented to the whole Working Group. The meeting of the Working Group will be held over 1.5 days and will focus on the need to promote and strengthen SME policy in the EaP countries and understanding the opportunities that are offered by the EU in this framework.

Aim

The Meeting of the Working Group 2 will include exchange, capacity building and advocacy parts, aiming to gain better understanding of the challenges SME development faces and the opportunities under the DCFTA and the flagship initiatives. The meeting will also offer an exchange with EU policy-makers.

Objectives

1. Provide an update on policies and projects/actions happening in EaP on Platform 2 areas
2. Encourage the development of regional perspectives and joint support initiatives
3. Explore the situation with SME policy in the 6 countries – identify good practices
4. Share project initiatives and Identify common actions until the Annual Assembly.

Participants and Interpretation

The meeting will include all participants of WG2 at the Annual Assembly, Working Group Council members as well as observers and guests (about 35 participants). Observers can participate if they are able to cover their own costs for the meeting.

The meeting will be held in English and Russian with interpretation for plenary work and informal arrangements among participants for work in groups.

AGENDA

9 July: Working Group 2 meeting – updates, sub-groups, actions of WG in 2015

Opening session	Introduction of Participants and updates on EaP CSF actions in 2015
9:00– 9:30	<p>Iurii Vdovenko, Coordinators of Working Group 2, EaP CSF - introduction and welcome notes</p> <p>Round of Introduction of participants</p> <p>Tanya Basarab, Advocacy and Membership Manager - Secretariat update on EaP CSF advocacy work in 2015</p>
Session 1	Platform 2 updates and actions from National Platforms and panels
9:30-10:30	<p>Moderated by: Kakha Gogolashvili, Coordinator of WG 2, EaP CSF</p> <p>Speakers Report from WG 2 EaP CSF participants in Platform 2 meetings, seminars and panels</p>
10.30 – 10.45	Coffee/tea break
Session 2	Priorities and activities of National Platforms – reports and brainstorming on areas of common interest
10.45 – 11:30	<p>Working Group Council Members will share about the priorities and activities in National Platforms and areas of common interest will be identified:</p> <p>Moderated by: Kakha Gogolashvili, National Coordinator of WG 2, Georgia NP</p> <p>Speakers: Karen Chilingaryan, National Coordinator of WG 2, Armenia NP Ihor Lednik, National Coordinator of WG 2, Belarus NP Iurii Vdovenko, National Coordinator of WG 2, Ukraine NP Eugen Roscovanu, National Coordinator of WG 2, Moldova NP Ilgar Huseynli, National Coordinator of WG 2, Azerbaijan NP</p>
Session 3	Work in Subgroups: updates and cooperation initiatives in 2015
11.30 – 13.00	<p>Work in subgroups, facilitated by subgroup coordinators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Presentation of on-going cooperation activities, projects initiated and supported through re-granting; policy agenda for the remaining part of the year of WG 2. - Sharing good practices in building cooperation and engaging with policy monitoring in the areas of agriculture and rural development, DCFTA implementation, SME policy, ICT infrastructure integration, transborder cooperation, alternative energy and other subgroups of interest to members. - Developing joint initiatives.
13:00-14:00	Lunch

Conference of Working Group 2

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Session 1	<i>DCFTA implementation in Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine</i>
14:00-15:00	<p>Moderated by: Kakha Gogolashvili - Coordinator of Working Group 4, Georgian NP, EaP CSF</p> <p>Speakers: Joanna Miksa -DG TRADE –progress in DCFTA implementation Gabriel Blanc, DG NEAR – SME Support Programme Eugen Roscovanu, Kakha Gogolashvili, Yuliya Vengerovych EaP CSF representatives – assessing the impact of DCFTA implementation</p>
15:00-15:30	Coffee Break
Session 2	<i>Agriculture and rural development in EaP countries</i>
15:30-16:30	<p>Moderated by: Sargis Serdakyán, Subgroup Coordinator, EaP CSF</p> <p>Speakers: Vincent Rey DG NEAR Dominik Olewinski DG AGRI</p>
Session 3	<i>Impact of instruments for SME development</i>
16:30 –17:30	<p>Moderated by: Eugen Roscovanu, Moldova NP, EaP CSF</p> <p>Speakers: Michaela Hauf, DG GROW, Platform 2 Coordinator Gabriel Blanc, DG NEAR, Sabit Baghirov, Azerbaijan NP, EaP CSF Other WG participants who attended the EaP Business Forum</p>
	No host dinner

10 July: Working Group 2 Conference continued

Session 4	<i>CSOs contributing to stronger cross-border cooperation programmes</i>
09:30-10:30	<p>Moderated by: Iurii Vdovenko, Subgroup Coordinator, EaP CSF</p> <p>Speakers: Nathalie Thiberge, DG NEAR Ihor Lednik, Belarus NP, EaP CSF</p>
10:30-11:10	Coffee Break
Session 5	<i>Looking ahead: policy recommendations on strengthening the EaP CSF engagement with DCFTA implementation and flagship initiatives for economic cooperation</i>
11:00-12:30	<p>Moderated by: Yuliya Vengerovych, Ukraine NP, EaP CSF</p> <p>Speakers: participants from the four thematic panels will share their recommendations Discussion on projects and activities until the Annual Assembly Evaluation and closing of the meeting</p>

Participants will depart in the afternoon or the following morning, according to flight availability