

## Annual Activities Report 2017

### ARMENIAN NATIONAL PLATFORM REPORT

#### THE KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- Re-establishment of dialogue formats with the national government, lost in the period of 2013-2016, on matters the Enhanced Cooperation and Partnership Agreement with the EU and broader agenda
- Initiation of active steps by the Platform towards synergy between EU-funded projects to ensure that they benefit more the genuine civil society and can be of use to it, and finally the initiation of EU-Armenia civil society cooperation group that can serve as a key platform for dialogue with civil society under the new Armenia-EU agreement.

Also, in 2017 the Armenian NP has raised **14 issues with country decision-makers; 16 issues with the broader public and 7 issues with the EU Delegation/EU institutions. On 5 occasions** the NP was consulted by the EU institutions/EU delegation, however there is no indications that the recommendations have been taken on board.

#### ACTIVITIES OF THE PLATFORM IN 2017

##### Key meetings with external stakeholders

- In spring 2017 EaP CSF ANP members had a series of meetings with the RA authorities.



At the joint meeting with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of International Economic Integration and Reforms of the Republic of Armenia, attended by Deputy Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Economic Development and Investments, International Economic Integration and Reforms, and Justice, the EU-Armenia Partnership Priorities 2017-2020 and CSF Armenian National

Platform-RA Government cooperation were discussed. As a result of the discussions, an agreement was reached to continue the dialogue on the issues of the Armenia-EU agenda.

EaP CSF Armenian National Platform also met the Chairs of RA National Assembly 2 Standing Committees – External Affairs and European Integration (Armen Ashotyan and Naira Zohrabyan) to discuss formats and modalities of cooperation between EaP CSF ANP and RA National Assembly. Results: concrete joint steps in various policy areas agreed. The ANP has been invited to the expert council on foreign affairs, to take part in the preparation of Parliamentary hearings on EU-Armenia Enhanced and Comprehensive Partnership Agreement and to provide suggestion for the Road Map on its implementation. The contribution to the evaluation of EU-Armenian Partnership and cooperation Agreement by the ANP is also expected. Special interest was expressed in cooperation with ANP on Equal Rights and Domestic Violence legislation.

- On 15 May 2017 the EU Delegation held consultations with the participation of local CSO for the 8th EU-Armenia Human Rights Dialogue. The participant organizations presented their opinions on the priorities of human rights in country.
- On 21 June 2017 the members of Armenian National Platform participated in the meeting of the GSP+ monitoring mission to Armenia aimed to assess developments in implementing the relevant 27 international conventions. During the meeting the problems of the implementation of the GSP+ obligations were presented, as well as the role of National Platform in the monitoring process was discussed.
- At the meeting of CSF ANP representatives with representatives from DG NEAR Centre of Expertise on Civil Society held on March 7, 2017 in Yerevan with 13 participants in attendance, the Platform members provided their position on: capacity-building efforts and the engagement of civil society organisations, their priorities, engagement with the government; effectiveness and potential of the Platform as civil society voice in Armenia. Results: possibilities of ensuring synergy between various EU funded initiatives on civil society and respective follow-up steps discussed.

#### Internal meetings of the Platform

- At the EaP CSF Armenian Delegates General Assembly in Yerevan with 46 participants in attendance that took place on December 29, 2016, the Platform members discussed: the EaP CSF ANP 2016 activities; the CSF 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Assembly results; amendments to the ANP Organizational Principles; CSF ANP activities plan for 2017.
- Open meeting of the Working Group 1 “Democracy, Human Rights, Good Governance and Stability” of the EaP CSF Armenian National Platform held on March 15, 2017 in Yerevan with 22 participants in attendance. Main topics discussed: the ANP role and assessments in the upcoming Parliamentary elections; updated plan of activities of Working Group 1 for 2017; presentation of EU GSP+ (Generalized System of Preferences) monitoring. Results: support of electoral activities of the civil society by ANP approved.

- EaP CSF Armenian Delegates General Assembly held on April 12, 2017 in Yerevan with 62 participants to vote for the ANP shortlist of the delegates to the 9th EaP Civil Society Forum Annual Assembly. Main topic discussed: formats and spheres of

possible cooperation between EaP CSF Armenian National Platform and “Commitment to Constructive Dialogue” consortium.

- EaP CSF Armenian Delegates General Assembly held in Yerevan with 46 participants. May 5, 2017. Main topics discussed: amendments to the CSF ANP Organizational Principles, followed by voting and adoption; issues related to ANP current activities; report on the EaP Platform 1 *Democracy, Human Rights, Good Governance and Stability* 17<sup>th</sup> meeting.

- EaP CSF Armenian Delegates General Assembly on May 16, 2017 in Yerevan with 47 participants. Main topics discussed: presentation of Armenian Lead CSOs’ winner projects within EaP CSF 2017 Re-Granting Scheme; elections to the ANP Ethics Council.



- EaP CSF Armenian Delegates General Assembly held on July 19, 2017 in Yerevan with 39 participants. Main topics discussed: presentation of two EU-funded projects: *Strong Civil Society Organizations for Stronger Armenia* and *Euroclubs in Armenia* and synergy between ANP and the projects.

- EaP CSF Armenian Delegates General Assembly held on September 11, 2017 in Yerevan with 57 participants. Main topics discussed: civil society engagement in the administrative-territorial reforms in Armenia; the course and perspectives of administrative-territorial local self-governance reforms in Armenia. Results: agreement with the Ministry of territorial administration and development on more consistent participation of the civil society in the decision making within the respective reform process achieved.

- 3 meetings of the ANP representatives in the regions of Armenia (Taush, Lori, Syunik) conducted during September, 2017. Main topics discussed: local self-governance reforms; environmental challenges, problems of local media. Results: better understanding of CSOs in the regions of the respective problems and possibilities to participate in their resolution. Stronger engagement of the civil society in the regions of Armenia into the activities of ANP.

## STATEMENTS, POSITION PAPERS OF THE ARMENIAN NATIONAL PLATFORM

EaP CSF ANP Statement on the propaganda increasing tension in Armenian-Azerbaijani relations <https://eaparmenianews.wordpress.com/2017/02/08/issue-262/>

EaP CSF ANP Statement on the death of arrested activist Artur Sargsyan <https://eaparmenianews.wordpress.com/2017/03/23/issue-266/>

EaP CSF ANP position on the corruption in the EU funded projects implementation. May 10, 2017 <https://eaparmenianews.wordpress.com/2017/05/12/issue-270/>

EaP CSF ANP Statement on the termination of the mandate of OSCE Office in Yerevan. May 10, 2017 <https://eaparmenianews.wordpress.com/2017/05/12/issue-270/>

EaP CSF ANP Statement on ensuring the economic and social rights of RA citizens. June 22, 2017 <https://eaparmenianews.wordpress.com/2017/06/23/issue-273/>

EaP CSF ANP Statement on the importance of critically assessing the situation in the Country. June 26, 2017 <https://eaparmenianews.wordpress.com/2017/06/28/issue-274/>

EaP CSF ANP Statement on recent developments on the line of contact of Karabakh conflict with concrete steps to reduce military tensions. July 11, 2017 <https://eaparmenianews.wordpress.com/2017/07/19/issue-275/>

EaP CSF ANP Statement on the censorship and discrimination displayed within the framework of “Golden Apricot” film festival. July 15, 2017 <https://eaparmenianews.wordpress.com/2017/07/19/issue-275/>

EaP CSF ANP Statement on continued detention of political activist Andreas Ghukasyan. September 17, 2017

EaP CSF ANP Statement on problems in the functioning of Visa Centres *providing* evidence of irresponsible attitude towards Armenian citizens including civil society representatives and raising it with RA MFA and Embassies of EU member states.

## GENERAL INFO ABOUT THE NATIONAL PLATFORM



As of September, 2017, 241 CSOs registered as members of the CSF Armenian National Platform. 11 new CSOs have joined the Platform during the reporting period, among which the CSOs in the field of human rights, social-economic issues, environment, education and youth. 9 out of the new members are based in Yerevan, 2 – in the regions. Heads of 8 of them are women.

In September 2017 the ANP Secretariat launched a series of regional meetings to promote Armenian National Platform, engage new regional CSOs and to activate the already member CSOs.

After a number of consultations and voting Armenian National Platform finalized the amendments to its Organizational Principles, which will allow making the operation of the Platform more efficient.

As in the previous years, tight partnerships were developed among the NP member CSOs, whose projects received funding within EaP CSF 2017 Re-Granting Scheme. ANP dedicated one of its assemblies to the presentation of 2017 Armenian Lead CSOs' Winner Projects:

*WG1: Adopting Experience on Bilateral EU-Moldova and EU-Georgia CS Platforms to Armenia (Eurasia Partnership Foundation, Armenia)*

*WG1: Capacity development for gender subgroups of National Platforms in Armenia, Georgia, Belarus and Ukraine (Women's Resource Centre, Armenia)*

*WG4: Everybody Counts: Rural Youth Empowerment in Eastern Partnership Countries (Armenian Progressive Youth, Armenia)*

*WG4: Creative Europe Forum (Golden Apricot Fund for Cinema Development, Armenia)*

All major Armenian TV channels and online resources were invited to several ANP Assemblies, which had RA Government, RA National Assembly and EU officials as guest speakers. This ensured a broad coverage of ANP events and made ANP reachable to larger audiences. Added to that, the ANP Secretariat maintained the ANP [webpage](#), which kept providing weekly update on the Eastern Partnership, EaP Civil Society Forum and ANP activities, as well as information for the civil society (projects, available grants, calls for proposals, studies, etc). The regional visits launched by the ANP Secretariat are aimed at presenting the ANP and CSF to the active citizens of Armenian regions and attract new members.



New initiatives born as a result of the regional WG meetings or joint NP events

- All above mentioned re-granting scheme projects originated through contacts within regional WG meetings
- Cooperation intensified/established between EaP CSF Armenian National Platform and “Commitment to Constructive Dialogue” consortium
- Agreement to use the meeting spaces of Euroclubs in Armenia for various ANP activities and initiatives of ANP member CSOs