

## EaP CSF RE-GRANTING 2017

### Annex VII: Final Narrative Report template

**Project title:** Cooperation Between Civil Society and Governments in Ukraine, Moldova and Georgia: Challenges and the Way Forward

**Grant Agreement no:** SEC003/2017/WG1/03

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**1. Overall description of project implementation, changes in timeline and reasons for change**

No specific events that would directly influence the project activities have occurred during the project implementation. All activities in this period were organized without any difficulties.

**2. Project Activities and Outputs**

Description of implemented project activities and how they translate into achieving the overall aim and specific project objective/s

**ROUNDTABLE** – A series of workshops and roundtables were held on June 07, 2017. They consisted of two parts, first one was closed-door and second was open to public.

**CLOSED-DOOR WORKSHOPS:**

- 1) Effective Lobbying:** The workshop explored and discussed transparent and effective methods which civil society actors from EaP countries can use to influence public policy and decision-making process at local as well as national level. The workshop was led by - Andrius Romanovskis, Partner, META Advisory Lithuania



- 2) **New technologies – Tool of Advocation:** Information age brings new opportunities to how civil societies can promote their work. Similarly, new technologies offer unique channels for advocacy efforts. The workshop explored how can new technologies and civic journalism help activists to advocate for issues that matter to the local societies. The workshop sought to explain how various new technologies (videos, phones, social media, apps) can be easily used to advocate for issues that matter to civil society. The workshop was led by – Veronika Divisova, Sourcefabric, Czech Republic
- 3) **Introduction to Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum:** The official program included presentation about the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum by Vitalii Maryniuk, Head of the International Programs, Centre for Global Studies, Ukraine.

OPEN TO PUBLIC DISCUSSION/PANEL:

- 4) **Cooperation between civil society and government: Challenges and Solutions:**  
This discussion shed light on the challenges and solution of cooperation between these two sectors, matter that is of critical importance for countries in EaP countries. The panel included contributions from all project partners and participants. The discussion was led by Anna Bulakh, International Center for Defence and Security (ICDS), Ukraine/Estonia Country and country perspectives were presented by: a) Danu Marin, Foreign Policy Association (APE), Moldova b) Natasha Kurdiukova, Kharkiv Crises Infocenter (KCI), Kharkiv, Ukraine c) Ketii Emukhvari, The Georgian Foundation for Strategic and International Studies (GFSIS), Georgia

Both parts were very well received and well attended (overall around 30-40 people attended). Among the participants were members of local civil society, media/journalists from Kharkiv,



government (local council, members of city council). Most of the participants were from Kharkiv, but also from smaller cities in Eastern Ukraine (for example Slaviansk).

**SUMMARY REPORT** from the roundtable was published in August – it draws on main findings from the roundtable discussion with local civil society and experts from Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine. Two language versions of the summary report were published, one in English and one in Russian. After publishing, both reports were disseminated (via email and social media campaigns, see later) in Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine.

**THREE E-LEARNING VIDEOS** were published. All are available on PSSI YouTube as well as social media channels:

- 1) **Andrius Romanovskis - Lobbying for Civil Society in EaP Countries.** The talk discusses transparent and effective methods which civil society actors from EaP countries can use to influence public policy and decision-making process at local as well as national level. You can watch the video [here](#).
- 2) **Veronika Divisova - Optimizing Online Visibility for NGOs Using New Technologies.** Ms. Divisova explained how various new technologies (videos, phones, social media, apps) can be easily used to increase NGO online visibility and to advocate for issues that matter to civil society. You can watch the video [here](#).
- 3) **Anna Bulakh - National Resilience as a Response to Hybrid Threats.** You can watch the video [here](#).



### **August - Series of short videos – practical implementation of workshops**

To build on the skills acquired during the workshop our partners have released these videos:

Danu Marin have published a video on the state of national resilience in Moldova.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YpJ6-dKoNfU&feature=youtu.be>

The Georgian Foundation for Strategic and International Studies/Rondeli Foundation have published a video with Amb. Valeri Chechelashvili, the Senior Fellow at the Rondeli Foundation: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0xv\\_Cq-Jyyo&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0xv_Cq-Jyyo&feature=youtu.be)

Kharkiv Crises Infocenter published a video with Natasha Kurdiukova, director of the KCI and media project Nakipelo.

### **3. Project Impact and evaluation**

*Please describe the project impact, please refer to the project advocacy plan, if relevant*

*Please list the impact indicators for evaluation*

Overall, we found that the project contributed to the strengthening of the capacity of civil society in Ukraine. Unlike in Kiev, fewer events take place in Ukraine's eastern city of Kharkiv. Therefore, all participants have valued having the opportunity to share experience and talk to experts from countries of EU: Czech Republic, Lithuania, Estonia; as well as from other EaP countries (Georgia, Moldova). Networking and gaining contacts across borders was an important aspect in capacity build up.



Second, the panel discussions aimed to highlight the importance of civil society in maintaining and strengthening national resilience of EaP countries. This topic was a substantial part of debates.

Third, the summary publication, based on notes and minutes taken during the panel discussion in Kharkiv, was able to identify main challenges regarding the participation of civil society in the public policy decision-making in Ukraine, Georgia, Moldova.

Representatives of the Eastern Partnership countries presented a unique inside view on the cooperation between the civil society and the public sector as well as key problems and new opportunities for improving cooperation between the two sectors during the panel discussion

#### **4. Gender mainstreaming**

The workshop and discussion were gender balanced. In fact, 4 of the speakers were female while 3 were male.

#### **5. Visibility and Outreach**

The project team have complied with the Visibility Guide. Both versions of the publication were in a format and in the layout required by EaP (all outputs were discussed with the secretariat prior to publishing). They are now available and free to download on [PSSI website](#) and [YouTube channel](#).

All the outputs, including publications (both language versions) as well as e-learning videos, were promoted with paid campaigns on Facebook. The target audiences were mostly project countries: Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine.



In addition, project partners have promoted publications and videos too and used their channels to reach local audiences:

**The Georgian Foundation for Strategic and International Studies/Rodeli Foundation**

**(Georgia):** The report (the Russian version) as well as the practical videos were shared by the Foundation with the active representatives (NGO, Media, Local Governance) of ethnic minority populating regions of Georgia – namely Samtskhe-Javakheti and Kvemo Kartli (ethnic Armenian and Azerbaijani community). Their access to information in English or Georgian is limited, that is why Russian language is the only way they can get useful information, or strengthen their skills on Civil Society cooperation with government or any other topic. (totally around 60 representatives of ethnic minority community -NGOs and media). The report was also disseminated among the NGO and expert community (our mailing list includes around 100 experts, NGOs, journalists).

**Foreign Policy Association (Moldova)** used their website and Facebook page for promoting outputs of the project. You can find the presentation of the project on their [website](#) as well as in the special [post](#) on the Facebook page.

**Kharkiv Crisis Infocenter (Ukraine)** used their e-mail list for disseminating publication as well as e-learning videos. The list consist of email addresses of journalists and activists from all around the Eastern Ukraine.

## 6. Relevance for EaP CSF



One of the goal of the EaP CSF Working Group “Democracy, Human Rights, Good Governance and Stability” (WG1) is to create a stable democratic structures in EaP countries as well as to enable stronger participation of civil society (in areas such as combating corruption, training or local administration), which was precisely what the discussion and workshop at the event addressed. Thus, we found that the project was very relevant and in line with EaP CSF goals. Also, the project publication was sent to many members of NGOs that are part of the forum.

The project also contributed to the raising awareness about the EaP CSF in Eastern Ukraine. As we found out, most of the participants had never heard of the EaP CSF before, thus the 15 min presentation by Vitalii Maryniuk from the Centre for Global Studies in Ukraine, who gave an introduction to Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum (background, goals, activities), was of great added value for interested audience.

## 7. Project Sustainability Outlook

Communication between the civil society and the government is still among the biggest challenges in most of the EaP countries, and areas for improvement still exists. Although still not perfect, this area is much more developed in the EU countries. All of the participants come from countries that had undergone a difficult transition over the past 27 years, which enabled them to gain know-how in areas that can be applied in the EaP countries.

We found that discussing and sharing experience among the event’s participants was of tremendous added value. Baltic countries has a well-developed structure and network for civil society and governments to interact each other, thus the workshop on effective lobbying (led by Andrius Romanovskis from Lithuania) introduce the modern techniques on how to approach governments and legally influence public policy (as we found out, the lack of legal structure in EaP is one of the biggest challenges). Second the use of new technologies as tool



of advocating is of crucial importance in the rapidly changing information age, thus workshop led by Veronika Divisova from Czech Republic was a great way to highlight current trends that can be utilized by civil society actors in EaP countries.

The outcomes of last part of the event are summarized in the publication - roundtable summary. This text, translated to English and Russian, ensures that findings of the discussion between participants were recorded and maintain. The publication (that was shared with target audiences in all participating countries) will be a great source for anybody who seek to gain knowledge in this important area.

Overall, the benefits of the roundtable and workshops for the civil society in the EaP countries were in capacity build-up of civil society, media and government officials. This goal is of long-term nature, and is thus difficult to measure now. The project therefore contributes to the development of functioning society in EaP countries in general, and in Eastern Ukraine (where most of the participants came from) in particular, which is part of a long-term effort.

## 8. Attachments (if relevant)

All relevant attachments were sent with the mid-term report.

