

## Position Paper: Mobility and People-to-People Contacts

**Prepared for:** EaP Platform 4 on Mobility and People-to-People Contacts in Brussels, 19 June 2018

**Prepared by:** Oleg SHATBERASHVILI and Mariia SYMONOVA, members of the EaP CSF

**Date:** 18 June 2018

### **Synergy between several activities of the Platform 4**

It would be expedient to increase support of projects and proposals covering two or more areas within the Platform 4 framework. For instance, two Jean Monnet projects of 2011 and 2013, aimed at improving communication with local stakeholders on the role of the EU research and innovation policy, brought innovative development issues to Georgian Government's and Parliament's attention, drastically changing the attitude towards innovation policy in the country.

### **Overall work programme of the Platform 4**

1. The EaP activities in the areas covered by Platform 4, including those related to the Association Agreements and DCFTAs, are designed in such a way that they do not encourage the EaP countries to add suggestions to the EU contributions. Moreover, there is no clear differentiation between the parts produced by the EU and those proposed by the EaP countries.
2. The EU contribution to solving these issues is significant and includes all necessary instruments. However, according to the data (by PISA, UNESCO, WB, PSF, Torino Process, etc.) over many years the results of the EaP countries in the field of education and science are modest, and according to some indicators even negative.
4. The monitoring role of the EaP CSF National Platforms is in some cases ignored by the ministries in the EaP countries.

Under the Platform 4 framework, the 'more for more' principle should be actively used to stimulate the EaP countries' own expenditures on the items of the EaP agenda (this also concerns the key priority 'Strengthening Institutions and good governance'). The monitoring role of the EaP CSF should be strengthened, especially that of the EaP CSF National Platforms.

### **Research-based decision-making**

As numerous programmes and initiatives to support youth have been initiated within the last years, there is a need to understand whether existing tools and approaches are applicable to those young people who are not in the primary receivers of this support (e.g. marginalized groups, Roma youth, young football fans, members of subcultures etc.). Even though the EaP civil society actively participates in the promotion of 20 Deliverables to 2020, there is no comprehensive data to target the youth that is not necessarily supportive of the EU integration.

*Proposal:* to conduct a quantitative research in cooperation with the representatives of the EaP Governments on the accuracy of tools and communication channels designed in the framework of 20 Deliverables for 2020 aimed at the facilitation of the future EU-EaP cooperation within the youth empowerment programmes.

## Position Paper: Mobility and People-to-People Contacts

### Inter-institutional cooperation for youth participation

As envisioned by the 20 Deliverables 2020, youth participation policy at the grassroots level as such is missing, though being ensured by the biennial EaP Youth Forum and targeted programmes for the EaP community of young leaders. At the same time, the most tangible and visible way is to exercise youth participation at the local and regional levels (communities, cities, regions). At city and community levels, projects and initiatives created by youth are serving as good examples for those people who still refrain from civic engagement and participation (e.g. participatory budgeting and projects, students' initiatives for urban infrastructure, etc.).

*Proposal:* to foster the dialogue with the Council of Europe-European Union Youth Partnership in order to enhance and empower better targeting of the implementation of 20 Deliverables for 2020.

### Youth transition from education to work

The tools in the framework of the EaP Platform 4 should be utilized to conduct a detailed study on youth transition from education to work in the EaP countries, looking specifically at their motivation, attitudes, skills, etc.

The European Union hosts the largest share of mobility students coming from Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine. It is the second most popular destination in the case of Belarus and Armenia (after Russia) and the third among Azerbaijani students (after Russia and Turkey). However, still a large part of the highly qualified researchers from the EaP countries prefer to work in the United States.

### Youth leadership through youth entrepreneurship and employment

Capacity building for youth is a key aspect for further civic engagement. The Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum pays a lot of attention to fostering and supporting this process through international events, national and local information campaigns as well as trainings for young start-ups in all 6 countries.

*Proposal:* to enhance the support for civil society initiatives on dissemination of knowledge, skills, success stories and exchange of ideas related to youth leadership and to establish a system (e.g. an online toolkit) for collecting already active and successful entrepreneurial concepts (co-funding, co-investment platforms, green entrepreneurship cases, etc.).

#### **More Information**

*The Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum (EaP CSF) is a unique multi-layered regional civil society platform aimed at promoting European integration, facilitating reforms and democratic transformations in the six Eastern Partnership countries - Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine. Serving as the civil society and people-to-people dimension of the Eastern Partnership, the EaP CSF strives to strengthen civil society in the region, boost pluralism in public discourse and policy making by promoting participatory democracy and fundamental freedoms.*

*For more information, please visit the EaP CSF website at [www.eap-csf.eu](http://www.eap-csf.eu)*