

EaP CSF RE-GRANTING 2018

Final Narrative Report

Project title: “EaP Think Tank Forum 2018 - A new security agenda for EaP. The regional approach”

Grant Agreement no: SEC004/2018/WG1/01

Project duration: 01.06.2018 – 30.11.2018

Reported period: 01.06.2018 – 30.11.2018

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

Due to elements independent of the project implementation team, we have signed the Agreement for this project later. This was also the reason for starting the implementation of project activities later than the period mentioned in the initial application, submitted on January 2018. Moreover, some costs for different types of services have changed slightly due to exchange rate fluctuations and inflation. However, ESGA, the lead organization, managed to administrate the available resources for the project, so we have had in the end an extensive presence and participation during the Eastern Partnership Think Tank Forum 2018, Bucharest edition.

In the midterm report for the project, we have notified EaP CSF about two aspects that required increased attention from the implementation team:



1. Certain activities were delayed due to late payment of 70%, which did not allow us to sign immediately the collaboration agreements for this project with national coordinators and experts. We could not engage costs for which we did not have financial coverage.
2. After assessing the public interest both from abroad and from Romania, we concluded that additional financial resources will be needed to cover catering expenses (coffee breaks, lunch and dinner) for the participants and visibility activities (photos, online broadcasting of the event).

The two elements influenced the way in which the subsequent activities were scheduled and how the available resources were administrated.

The Romanian project implementation team, which ensures the overall management of the project, has taken steps to obtain additional financial support. Thus, public institutions, donors and private companies were contacted (ENEL, Banca Transilvania, Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, Central University Library "Carol I", Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs). At the time of the mid-term report we were able to get the support of the Carol I Central University Library. According to the contract signed with this institution, the partners of the project, represented by ESGA, paid only the equivalent of 500 euros, which represents the rent of the hall for the opening session of the event. Later, the room was offered for free use for both days of the forum.

We also requested the patronage of the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Romania will take over the EU presidency on January 1, 2019), as well as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Austria (the country currently holding the EU presidency). The Romanian MFA offered support for the EaPTTF2018 and decided to delegate the State Secretary Dănuț Sebastian Neculaescu for the opening session. The Austrian MFA, in their turn, took the decision to offer for the EaPTTF2018 the auspices for the event in Bucharest. Also, during the opening session we have been honoured by the presence of Mr. Tudor Buzatu, State Secretary for the working apparatus of the Vice-Prime Minister for the implementation of Romania's strategic partnerships.

In order to reduce the costs for international bank transfers outside EU we decided to sign the agreements with the experts and coordinators and included the cash payment clause. This internal decision of the project implementation team has helped us to adjust the available resources for the project from the "financial services" category included in the project budget.

At the beginning of November 2018, we reached the support of the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, Bucharest office. They offered Euro 5000 support for the event. We immediately notified the EaP CSF about co-financing. The EaP CSF has accepted the reorganization of the financial lines (visible in the financial report). ESGA has advanced the last 30% of the resources for the forum activities, necessary for an efficient implementation of the project.

We have also given up at travel agents (travel agencies) as intermediary to buy travel tickets for experts from Eastern Partnership countries and other EU Member States. For travel tickets we have contacted directly the air companies that have had at that moment of the participation confirmation of each expert the best price. This allowed us to save about Euros **882,45** from the "international travel" line included in the project budget. Otherwise, the travel agency would have imposed additional costs for flight tickets (between 25 and 50 Euros for each travel ticket).



It is important to mention that IPRE (the Moldovan partner) covered the travel expenses of 3 national experts (Iulian Groza, Mihai Mogildea – the national project coordinator, Adrian Balutel) and partial reimbursement for the travel tickets of Dumitru Minzarari, who is the country expert for Moldova within the project, additional to those paid from the project (Euros 400 paid in Bucharest, during the EaPTTF). NEC (Ukraine) ensured the presence of two Ukrainian experts (Sergiy Solodkyy, NEC, and Dmytro Shulga) and GISS (Georgia) have covered the travel expenses for Irakli Porchkhidze. ESGA Romania has provided the co-financing of accommodation expenses for 7 experts, in addition to the expenditures provided in the budgetary section "accommodation". ESGA also contributed financially to designing and creating the promo video for the project and managed to obtain the support for the presence of several experts (1 from Ukraine – Anton Mickhnenko, 1 from Moldova – Pavel Postică, Promo-LEX, 2 from Poland – Kamil Calus, OSW, and Tomasz Banasiak, Kasimir Poulaski Foundation), also in addition to the minimum number provided in the project. During the forum activities we have had more than 25 guests and experts from EaP and EU member states, as well as the presence of foreign diplomats (USA, Austria and Poland). Six of the ESGA volunteers contributed to the forum's work (14-16 November 2018). They helped us during the Forum sessions.

You can find attached to this report the agenda of the event with all speaker confirmations that we received until 14.10.2018.

For the second part of the opening session the invitations have been sent to all Eastern Partnership countries Ambassadors in Bucharest. During the opening session we have been honoured with the presence and participation of H.E. Sergey Minasyan, Ambassador of Armenia in Bucharest, H.E. Nikoloz Nikolozishvili, Ambassador of Georgia in Bucharest, H.E. Mihai Gribincea, Ambassador of the Republic of Moldova in Bucharest, and H.E. Oleksandr Bankov, Ambassador of Ukraine in Bucharest. The Embassy of Azerbaijan was be represented by the Secretary II, but only as a participant without speech, since the ambassador of Azerbaijan has completed his mandate in October 2018.

Invitations to participate in EaPTTF2018 were also sent to the Ambassadors of several EU Member States.

Experts from all six Eastern Partnership member states were invited to participate in the Forum's activities. Although they initially confirmed their presence as speakers, two of them failed to reach the event in Bucharest. Nodar Kharshiladze, a Georgian expert, failed to get to Bucharest due to health problems, and Stepan Grigoryan, an Armenian expert, was called two days before the forum as a candidate for the Armenian parliamentary elections (scheduled for December 9, 2018) the lists of a political party in Armenia.

Despite such a short notice, ESGA has notified both airlines companies that were in charge with Mr. Nodar Kharshiladze travel arrangements. We have been able to collect 24.55 euros for the Tbilisi-Bucharest segment (Tarom air company). The Ukrainian airline company, operating return flight, has expressly requested a medical certificate in English, Russian or Ukrainian, certifying the incapacity of the passenger to travel. We have asked our Georgian partners to help us with obtaining this certificate. Unfortunately, the certificate was issued only on 27 November 2018 and only in Georgian language by Mr Kharshiladze's doctor, being too late to recover the funds for this ticket.

Mr Stepan Grigoryan has reimbursed the full cost of his travel ticket.



2. Project Activities and Outputs

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

Please indicated the involvement of the target group/s

Please list and explain changes and reasons for change of project activities, if relevant

01.06.2018 – 15.07.2018 - Activity 1.1. Identification of coordinators for the organisational activities within the project and experts who have elaborated the thematic EaPTTF policy papers.

Experts: GISS - Irakli Porkchkhidze; IPRE -Dumitru Minzarari; NEC - Leonid Litra; ESGA - Mihaela-Adriana Pădureanu. Coordinators: IPRE – Mihai Mogildea, GISS – Mariam Popolashvili, NEC – Leonid Litra, and from ESGA Alexandru Hincu, as organisational and visibility assistant.

15.07.2018 – 30.09.2018 - Activity 1.2 Draft of the policy paper, addressing the key challenges of the Eastern Partnership 2020 deliverables in the area of security from ESGA, IPRE, GISS, NEC experts – 1 policy paper, consisting of 4 chapters, that were presented and debated on the EaPTTF2018 sessions.

01.09.2018 – 12.10.2018 - Activity 2.1. Invitation and selection of the participants for the workshop and preparation of the draft agenda of the EaPTTF2018 workshop.

15.07.2018 – 30.10.2018 - Activity 2.2. Organization of the workshop and implementation of the communication plan activities:

- Promo Video - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DV92qqrNT6s>

- A special page on ESGA web page dedicated to the project - <http://www.esga.ro/eapttf2018-2/>

- A special event on Facebook dedicated to the project - <https://www.facebook.com/events/582124792185274/>

- Visibility activities on social media pages of the partners organizations;

- Agreement with Central University Library Carol 1 (in signing process with the Central University Library) – a copy will be provided for the final report;

- Agreements with the Hotel and Catering company (for accommodation and meals for participants will be provided for final report)

14.11.2018 – 16.11.2018 - Activity 2.2: Organization of one Workshop in Bucharest, where at least 25 experts from EaP and EU countries experts will participate to a 2 days event.

20.11.2018 – 12.12.2018 - Activity 3.1: Print at least 100 copies of the Policy Paper. Publish the Policy Paper on the websites of the project partners and on the web-site of the EaP CSF. The final version of the Policy Paper was printed and distributed already during the EaP CSF AA2018 in Tbilisi, and by email to governmental and non-governmental stakeholders from the EU and EaP countries.

Please list the project outputs:



Outcome 1: The EaP CSF expertise and vision on the implementation of the EU Global Security Strategy and 2020 EaP Deliverables in the context of the new mandate of the European Commission (2020 - 2024) strengthened by a **Policy Paper** containing a set of recommendations on the security agenda of the EaP countries from EU and EaP think-tank experts. – achieved.

Outcome 2: EaP TTF thematic Workshop - A New Security Agenda for EaP. The Regional Approach - organised.

Outcome 3: Promotion and advocacy visit to Brussels to present the key findings of the Policy Paper ongoing.

Please list the changes and reasons for a change of the project outputs, if relevant

The advocacy visit to Brussels will be organized during 2019. The implementation team (at IPRE suggestion) decided to organize a few advocacy activities during the IPRE projects in EU cities, where IPRE have planned visits and where the authors of the policy paper can join during 2019. ESGA managed to publish and distribute the paper during the EaP CSF AA2018 in Tbilisi. These actions have increased the visibility for the project outcomes (the policy paper and the recommendations, but also the EaPTTF2018), as a proof for that, the EaPTTF2018 edition was voted the project of this re-granting edition of the EaP CSF. We will continue to promote the paper among interested experts.

3. Project Impact:

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

Please list the impact indicators for evaluation of the impact.

- 1 policy paper – 4 chapters dedicated to Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine and Romania, which include recommendations for decision making from the expert origin country and for EU;
- 30 speakers from the EaP and EU Countries;
- 100 participants at the EAPTTF2018 sessions;
- 6 female moderators or speakers in 6 debate sessions;
- 3 institutional partners:
 1. Austrian Auspice of the EAPTT2018 and presence of the Special Envoy on Eastern Partnership, Austrian Federal Ministry for Europe, Integration, Ambassadors of the EaP Countries, Thomas Buchbaum;
 2. Support of the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
 3. Support of the Central University Library "Carol I";
 4. Konrad Adenauer Stiftung - co-financing the project.

4. Gender mainstreaming

Please describe how gender approach was mainstreamed on the course of project implementation.



Our goal was to ensure the presence of women experts in each session of the forum. In this regard, we contacted several women experts from both EaP and EU countries. Thus, we managed to have 6 female speakers or moderators, one in each session. Moreover, ESGA member team is made up of 75% of women. Thus, ESGA promoted as an author of the chapter devoted to Romania an expert woman – Mihaela Adriana Pădureanu, ESGA vice-president. The opening and closing sessions of the forum were moderated by expert women: Angela Grămadă, ESGA president and Leonela Lenes, Head of the Economy/Energy Department, ESGA. Other female speakers: Victoria Bucătaru, APE, Moldova, Orsolya Racz, Globsec, Slovakia, Otilia Nuțu, Expert-Forum, Romania, also a member of the Steering Committee of the EaP CSF.

5. Visibility and Outreach

Please describe the compliance with the Visibility Guide

List the tools that you have used to communicate and spread the information about your project and its outcomes (provide the necessary links and materials).

Objectives of the visibility actions, included in the communication plan:

I. Promoting the Policy Paper containing a set of recommendations on the security agenda of the EaP countries from EU and EaP think-tank experts.

- a) *Promotion within the forum.* The paper was presented and discussed during the workshop by the authors. Besides the authors of the paper and the project partners and speakers, the 75 participants that attended the workshop were the first direct beneficiaries of the outcomes of the Policy Paper.
- b) *Distribution of the paper in print version.* The Policy Paper was distributed in print version to governmental and non-governmental stakeholders from the EU and EaP countries.

The policy paper was sent by email to all participants at the EaPTTF2018 in Bucharest, also to the Romanian decision makers and other EaP and EU countries. Our colleague, Mihaela Pădureanu, brought 20 ex. at the EaP CSF AA2018. The paper was distributed to participants at the AA2018 (Tbilisi) during the Gallery Walk.

Online distribution of the paper. The paper was published on ESGA web pages and it was shared on the partners social media tools. The original post can be found here: www.esga.ro/eapttf2018-policy-paper/. Also, it was published on the web-site of the EaP CSF. Promotion by Social Media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn) was also made to the audience interested in the content of recommendations.

II) Promoting the 2 days thematic Workshop in Bucharest “A New Security Agenda for EaP. The Regional Approach” and enhancing the stakeholders’ engagement.

- a) *Creation and promotion of 1 promo video and 1 event video.* In order to ensure the project’s visibility a promo video that was financially covered by ESGA (as ESGA’s contribution) was created. During the event, an online transmission was available. Both the promo video and the video of the



workshop were distributed online on the 4 websites of the project partners and Social Media accounts. The promo video was distributed starting with October 2018. The event video is available starting with November 15th, 2018.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DV92qqrNT6s> - promo video for the event on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OC9IIKq-eT4&t=3612s> - live broadcasting of the event

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K14WEKetcfY&t=2682s>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qO10Gl19IRA&t=31s>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4TsAHF7VRDc&t=4s>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t-N1PkrpXK4>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=djBqDJZtOZM>

b) Informing and increasing participation the governmental and non-governmental stakeholders from EU and EaP countries on the Forum.

Information concerning the workshop context, agenda, short bio of experts followed by invitation was distributed in the period September – 10th of November 2018 to minimum 900 beneficiaries and potential participants at the workshop (our social media followers). These include EU embassies, EaP countries embassies, Romanian governmental and non-governmental entities as well as experts, academia, representatives, journalists.

1. Romania:

<http://www.esqa.ro/eapttf2018-2/> - the general overview of the project

<http://www.esqa.ro/eapttf2018/>

2. Republic of Moldova

<http://ipre.md/2018/10/29/eastern-partnership-think-tank-forum-2018-bucharest-romania/>

3. Georgia

<http://qiss.org.ge/eng/ourNews/131?fbclid=IwAR3arbQWIUMnNgrvoTmYMSPvz58aPw17m6kmQDiL Kb GR5KUNZ8Brd3b5zA>

4. Ukraine

<http://neweurope.org.ua/en/forum-analitychnyh-tsentriv-shidnogo-partnerstva-yaki-golovni-vyklyky-dlya-ukrayiny-u-sferi-bezpeky/>



c) Press-releases.

Before, during and after the event (September - December 2018), press-releases containing information related to the agenda, speakers and main outcomes were published on the 4 websites and Social Media accounts of the project partners.

Social Media:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/582124792185274/> - link to the Facebook event

<https://www.facebook.com/ESGAfiles/videos/2261515627196199/> - promo video for the Event on Facebook

Instagram and Twitter - *esga_esga, NECUkraine, IPREMoldova*

News outlets:

<https://www.eumonitor.eu/9353000/1/j9vvik7m1c3qyxp/vkt7cu4t9em1?ctx=vkipixf4atvn&tab=1> - EU Monitor

https://foto.agerpres.ro/?is_search=1&imageTitle=BUCURESTI+-+FORUMUL+PARTENERIATUL+ESTIC+THINK+TANK+2018 - Romanian National Agency AGERPRES

https://foto.agerpres.ro/?is_search=1&searchtxt=+ESGA - Romanian National Agency AGERPRES

Press - releases:

http://www.mae.ro/node/47440?fbclid=IwAR1_ZCTe21zsJ815ibpNNQwJWFeyLx828qerStJdeu3BDvwxPzVL3STBnMO - Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

<https://www.eu2018.at/calendar-events/political-events/BMEIA-2018-11-14-16-Eastern-Partnership-Think-Tank-Forum-2018---A-New-Security-Agenda-for-EaP.-The-Regional-Approach..html> - Austrian Presidency of the EU Council 2018

https://www.mfa.am/hy/press-releases/2018/11/15/rou-emb/8725?fbclid=IwAR2ws1p_OJkqdT6kadvZt78NHR_zDziDmtD2AhG0F2s1ZcsqND007qIU-3c – Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia, press release

https://www.facebook.com/pg/ESGAfiles/photos/?tab=album&album_id=2098046496918174&xts%5B0%5D=68.ARCTavQ9UbDJyZcfyFjh-VbwBtliMJ9catX_oyxY0tw11pEU3Rs0jZB-tn7zVI6-YaYRE2zlhA-SW-S0-DnOpuInSNueS3TRbr-DX25hZP6W3ZPtYP6GOhua_HVfLTeZDuf0_bcoOfkQIQh8NFRaRuG7ZWVEDS-GuKCLqWEMBzd1ZisPr_xVTk47FkGR8sxyiYzCWFwYyYNDxp-Inx_oV0AtpcCqDYOOvu2j1yDF7rHhDG93ajla8H2vIsJrbkN2EbpFMf4mfN_nfaVK2sJ199pDHhbzf774L2e7FvtINH2xMuCmGAoK_AcbHqWapJX0Dol4KTmqg8mvTXpuGJyTn0iWpNWbOQitmU_OcWuWmDVziKVoxeXpjSB7v3e0RqcHSDavsXkGzMvmL6YXp1wFfa9h63y-s_E09uhx-vjndPMNioQWri5-lipjhQrcIDNkPo8G5K19dndKNFlv-



Please describe the outreach of the project:

First, the EaPTTF 2018 edition initially proposed to bring 18 experts (14 EaP member states and 4 experts from the EU) to Bucharest, plus Romanian experts, journalists, academia and representatives of public institutions. The 2017 Edition hosted 60 experts from the PaE and the EU member states. The number of participants at the EaPTTF2018 exceeded the one originally planned by the organizing team. Thus, as early as July 2018 it became clear that the forum will have to host at least 70 participants from Romania and from outside. The final number of participants was about 100 people in both forum days, including: 30 experts from EaP and EU member states (some foreign experts have expressed their interest in the forum's activities and partially or fully covered their travel costs to Bucharest). The forum also hosted representatives of public institutions from Poland and Austria.

Secondly, after analysing the best options for promoting the Forum activities we have decided to create a video to present the overall aim and the project partners to those potentially interested in the EaPTTF2018 activities. That was the moment when ESGA team took the decision to involve our own resources in order to increase the visibility and efficiency of the communication plan.

6. Relevance for EaP CSF:

Please mention here how you consulted/involved/shared the project output/s with the relevant EaP CSF Working Groups and National Platforms or with EaP CSF Secretariat, if relevant.

The EaPTTF2018 edition organized in Bucharest was a great opportunity for participants/target groups representatives/beneficiaries to exchange ideas, opinions and to identify the best recommendations for the decision makers and interested stakeholders, both from Eastern Partnership and European Union countries. We have ensured continuity for the last year edition and for the dialogue, offering at the same time for the participants the opportunity to increase their interaction and cooperation with EU or EaP decision makers. The EaPTTF2018 was one of the most reliable option to further promote the national and regional expertise at the European level.

Each project partner from the EaP countries is a member of the EaP National Platform and have promoted the activities and outcomes of the EaPTTF2018 in their home countries. ESGA was a participant at the EaP SCF AA2018, and we are considering our presence at Tbilisi reunion an opportunity to promote the regional expertise at international level.

The authors of the policy paper and the Think Tank that each of them represents can participate in further EaP CSF activities in order to deliver presentations regarding the paper recommendations.

7. Project Sustainability Outlook:

EaPTTF initiators will continue to identify opportunities to hold a new meeting in the same format for the year 2019. The interest shown by the Romanian public, but not only, is a stimulating element in this respect. Thus, they invite potential partners interested in contributing to the organization of EaPTTF2019.



As it was mentioned above, the EaPTTF2018 received the award at the EaP CSF AA2018 in Tbilisi. This public recognition for the Forum will allow the organizers to argue the continuation of their initiative.

8. Attachments (if relevant):

- **Financial documents;**
- **List of participants;**
- **Agenda of the EaPTTF2018 edition.**
- **Policy paper – PDF format.**
- **Agreements (experts and coordinators agreements)**
- **Medical certificate in Georgian – email copy and the email of information;**
- **Travel tickets of the participants, others.**

