



Annual Activities Report 2017

MOLDOVA NATIONAL PLATFORM REPORT

Cooperation with key stakeholders

- **Participation in a Public Hearing at the EU Parliament and a meeting in the NATO HQs.** At the invitation of the Euro-parliamentarian Ms. Monica Macovei and with the support of the European Conservatives and Reformists Group and the Expert-Forum a number of active members of the WG 1 participated in two events:

- A meeting with officials of the NATO HQs, as well as several ambassadors to NATO from NATO members and neutral countries. The discussed issues during the event were NATO's partnerships & projecting stability, NATO's emerging security challenges, NATO's relations with Moldova, NATO allies & partners (8th of February, 2017)

- **Public Hearing of the EU Parliament "Association Agreements, Beyond Rhetoric: Rule of Law, Energy, Europeanization"**, where the members of WG1, as well as other active NGOs presented their views on the situation in the country in the fields of justice sector reform, anti-corruption, mass-media freedom, economic performances, energy sector, rule of law and Europeanisation (8th of February, 2017)

- **Meetings with representatives of Moldova's development partners:** To bring the attention of country's development partners and explain the position of CSOs on the inadmissibility of the adoption of a law aiming at legalizing fraudulent money, WG1 organized meetings with the heads of:

- the IMF Office in Moldova (19th of December, 2016),
- the CoE in Moldova Office (20th of December, 2016),
- the EU Delegation to Moldova (21st of December, 2016),
- the Ambassador of the U.S. to Moldova (17th of January, 2017).

- **Members of the Platform participated in the study visits to Brinzenii Noi village** of Telenesti rayon to see the illegal hydropower plant built on Raut river, tributary of Dniester river in September 2017. A commission was set up from members of the Parliament, Government and civil society (WG3) to investigate the case and stop illegal construction of the hydropower plant.

- **Support of Euroclubs in ATU Gagauzia:** in the autonomous territory, there are 3 Euroclubs on the basis of the educational institutions of Comrat, Ceadir-Lungi and Vulcanesti. The European Centre "Pro-Europa" carries out technical equipment of the centres (Internet, Personal computer, thematic literature). Thanks to the equipping of Euroclubs, young people use new opportunities and use the online platform to promote European integration and democracy:

- Over 500 people applied for consultations in Euroclubs
- More than 250 people took advantage of access to the Internet
- More than 300 people have used the services of the Euroclub library
- More than 900 unique users on the site www.proeuropa.md



- **Organization of debates on the topic of European integration:** More than 200 Euroclub Volunteers have gained practical knowledge of European integration processes, and, in the field of constructive debate, they have formed the skills of teamwork and making common decisions, gained the ability to speak before the audience, using strong arguments and defending the team's position, developed organizational and leadership skills.

- **Celebrating Europe Day:** Activities were planned and conducted in 3 settlements of ATU Gagauzia (Comrat town, Chadyr-Lunga municipality, Vulcanesti city) and Taraclia city. For the residents of Gagauzia and Taraklia, an exhibition of cartoons "Open Democracy" and a promotional campaign was organized. The content of the exhibition caricatures demonstrated to the exhibition visitors the principles of democracy, freedom, human rights, building open, tolerant and pluralistic relations, free media, access to information, competencies of authorities and others.

More than 40 Euroclub volunteers conducted dialogues with exhibition visitors and passers-by, clarified the content of cartoons, presented passers-by with balls and distributed information and promotional materials. Also, volunteers conducted a quiz on the European theme for all comers. Thus, more than 1500 residents and guests of the settlements of Gagauzia and Taraclia visited the exhibition and were involved in the celebration of Europe Day, visually acquainted with democratic processes, citizens' rights through exhibition cartoons.

- **Encouraging the activity of entrepreneurs:** Guide for exporters was developed for entrepreneurs from Gagauzia. Through this Guide, entrepreneurs are informed about the Agreement and Free Trade between the EU and Moldova (DCFTA), on export procedures to EU countries and compliance with European standards. Also, this Guide includes information on programs to support small and medium-sized businesses in Moldova, on the structures that promote business development, grants and loans. An expert from IDIS Viitorul worked on the development of this Guide. 500 copies of this Guide are made.

- **The meeting of SC members with EU Ambassador in the Republic of Moldova, H.E. Pirkka Tapiola,** was held on the 6th of June 2017, 4 members of the SC, 2 regional coordinators of WG2, Dovile Suckyte and Yurii Vdovenko. EU Ambassador in Moldova asked the SC members to be active in disseminating information in the regions of EaP countries, because there people should be informed about the investments which are made by EU to improve life conditions of the population at the local level. He said that in Moldova there is a brain drain and the country will soon remain without intelligent people if CSOs will not get stronger engaged in bringing sources of information on the implementation of various EU projects in Moldova and other EaP countries, other than those sources of propaganda which reign in the country. He encouraged CSOs to continue monitor the implementation of AA in EaP countries which signed it with EU and communicate the results to the Government if the conditions of operation for CSOs become more difficult. He encouraged the National Platform to get acquainted with the new EU Ambassador in Moldova, immediately in September when he will take his mandate.



Analytical Activities



- **Members of the National Platform developed a statement on the improvement of the Law on Waste** according to EU standards which will improve waste management in Moldova and sent it to the Government and Parliament of Moldova. The new Law on Waste was adopted in 2016 but with the possibility to co-incinerate municipal waste, meaning that it should be landfilled. The EU countries co-incinerate municipal waste producing energy.

- **Analytical note on the certification of knowledge acquired in non-formal and informal education contexts has been developed.** The analytical note was submitted by CNTM to the Ministry of Education. In December 2016, the Ministry of Education approved the Regulation for recognition of the competences acquired in non-formal and informal context. In the Strategy for Civil Society Development was included an activity on the establishment of the Centres for recognition of the competences acquired in non-formal and informal context.

- **The youth perspective on the Strategy on Combating Violence against Women has been developed.** The report was presented to a big range of organizations and ministries concerned by the topic of the research. This report was a real help while debating actions in the action plan of the strategy since each action was based on evidence, and more than that, discussed with a number of organizations with a high level of expertise in the field.

- **Analytical note on the draft Employment Strategy 2017-2021 from the perspective of youth** has been developed and group members consulted. The analytical note had a real impact at the stage of reviewing the project of the Strategy. Based on real data and arguments, CNTM could advocate and lobby to include some changes in the strategy and give more importance to the youth sector. The organization was included in several working groups by the International Labour Organization on the youth employment topic and is recognised as an important stakeholder in the employment policies. For the first time the Strategy has impact indicators on NEET youth.

- **Review of the law on Civic Association from the youth perspective.** A new working group was formed at the Ministry of Justice. [You can see the CNTM's position on this subject.](#)

- **Proposals to the draft National Human Rights Action Plan have been developed.** The proposals were almost all excluded. Regarding Ethnical Minorities and Roma people were kept only in the action plans of strategies adopted previously. Thus, was included an action plan in another, not admissible procedure from juridical perspective. That's why, a petition to the Ministry of Justice was sent together with the group of young people for



interethnic solidarity – OHCHR. We are still waiting to receive an answer to the petition, even though the legal terms expired already.

- **Opinion on the new national strategy on violence against women** has been developed. The review note for the plan of the strategy was taken in consideration since it was based on evidence. The group led by CNTM and other members participated all working groups on the strategy, representing young peoples' interests. However the total amount of propositions for the strategy accepted in the current phase is around 30%, due to the lack of resources.

Meetings of the National Platform

Three meetings of the National Platform were held during 2017. The 1st meeting was held on the 27th of March 2017 and the issues which were discussed at the meeting related to the improvement of the content of the Regulation of operation of the National Platform and the development of the National Platform's Plan of activities for 2017-2018. Increasing the visibility of the National Platform was also discussed during the meeting. For this, the site of the National Platform was discussed as one of the main instruments and how to increase its efficiency and make it more attractive among the members of the Platform. Also the members agreed to develop an application form for the NGOs who want to become members of the Platform and have a procedure where those members which know, that the new NGO has a problem with integrity or is a GONGO.

The second meeting of the National Platform was organised on the 26 June 2017. The main issues which were discussed during the meeting related to the selection of the participants for the Annual Assembly to be held in Tallinn in October 2017, presentation of activities held by all WGs since December 2016, presentation of the results of the small grants financed in the re-granting scheme and general information about the Think Tank Forum which was organised in September 2017 by IPRE NGO in Chisinau.

The third meeting was held on the 5th of October 2017, where the Platform met with the new EU Ambassador in Moldova, His Excellency Peter Michalko, and talked about the challenges which NGOs face in their activities in Moldova. The EU Ambassador invited NGOs to have a permanent dialogue and meet once a month on issues related to monitoring the implementation of the Association Agreement in Moldova. NGOs agreed to organise meetings of WGs separately and talk about particular issues which relate to the operation and priorities of each WG. Also coordinators of WGs presented annual reports on operation of WGs and talked about the draft of the Strategy of Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum for 2018-2020. The members of the Platform were asked to send comments to the draft of the Strategy before 15th of October 2017. Coordinators of WGs were proposed as well as candidates for the National Coordinators which will be voted at Annual Assembly.

Meetings were held with the participation of more than 20 NGOs – members of the National Platform.

Protests were organised by the members of the National Platform in summer 2017 when the Government proposed to change the election system to a mixed election system in Moldova. The protests were supported by opposition parties, and resulted in the participation of 5-10 thousands of people, though in the end, even the Venice Commission of Council of Europe recommended that the election system should stay the same and not be changed, the



Parliament voted for the law which changed the election system in Moldova to a mixed system which is in favour for Democrat and Socialist Party who regardless to the opinion of



the population of Moldova wishes to govern Moldova, even Democrat Party now is supported by less than 4% of the population. Declarations were issued on this issue by the members of the National Platform and sent to the Parliament and Government of Moldova, these are presented in the report of WG1 of the Platform.

The meeting of the Platform representatives with the Deputy

Minister of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Daniela Morari, was held in September 2017, where members of the Platform voiced again the problems in implementing the Association Agreement signed between EU and Moldova, and the Deputy Minister called for a stronger cooperation between the NGOs and the Government in implementing the AA, as the Government does not have expertise in all the spheres which are included in AA. She proposed to have more meetings during a year, before the Government reports annually to EU the achievement in implementing AA in Moldova. It was agreed to have a permanent and more focused dialogue on particular fields, where WGs could participate in their full representativeness.

PUBLIC APPEALS AND DECLARATION OF THE MOLDOVAN NATIONAL PLATFORM

- **On December 9th, 2016** a public declaration on the disapproval of the lacking transparency appointment of the General Prosecutor was issued. Withstanding the attempt of the governors to legalize the money with illegal provenience: In December, 2016 the governors of the country issued the so-called Draft Law on Liberalisation of Capital and Fiscal Stimulation that was perceived as an attempt to legalize the money with fraudulent provenience. The draft law was passed and voted in the first reading in the Parliament breaking the parliamentary procedures and the principles of decisional transparency. Given the USD 1 Billion bank fraud that took place in the Republic of Moldova, the adoption of this law would legalize the fraudulent money, deteriorate the efforts of further money recovery, affect the efficiency of re-setting the anti-corruption system in the country and discourage the obedient tax payers. In this regards, several active members of the WG 1 (Expert-Group, TI-Moldova, ADEPT, IDIS “Viitorul”, Association of Independent Press, Legal Resource Centre, Institute of Public Policies, PromoLex) came with a public appeal requiring the withdrawal of this Law. The appeal was supported by 29 NGOs and issued on December 12th, 2016.
- **On 12th of January, 2017** members of WG1 made a public Appeal of the Ambassador of the United States of America requiring the Government of the U.S. and related official authorities to take attitude and express their opinion vis-à-vis the legal initiative on so-called “capital liberalization” in the Republic of Moldova, through the prism of the Magnitsky Act. The appeal was co-signed by 18 NGOs. Due to collective actions initiated by the members of WG1 and other NGOs that supported these actions the



international community put pressure on the governors of the country and the law has been withdrawn after being adopted in first reading.

- **On 30th of January, 2017**, several members of the WG1 came with the public request to reformulate the Regulation of the organisation and implementation of the contest for the positions of the Chair and Vice-Chair of the National Integrity Authority. The public appeal called the authorities to organize a transparent contest, based on concrete evaluation criteria, publication of the evaluation results.
- **On 13th of February, 2017** a common declaration of CSOs and mass-media about the tendency of several public authorities to misinterpret the provisions of the Law on Personal Data Protection through unjustified refusals to provide information of public interest to applicants, especially journalists.
- **On 25th of February, 2017** three members of WG1 came with a public request to exclude the chapter on civil society organisations from the National Strategy on Integrity and Anti-corruption, perceiving this chapter as an attempt to control the activity of civil society organisations.
- **On 3rd of March, 2017** a common declaration on worsening environment for civil society organizations and mass-media in the Republic of Moldova was issued Opposing to the modification of the election system for the only benefit of compromised political parties: In March 2017, the Democrat and Social Democrat Parties of Moldova came with two draft laws having a single origin aiming at the modification of the electoral system for the only benefit of the compromised governing party that lost its' public support and credibility. Both draft laws presented a threat for the democratic development of the country, breaching the principle of representability in the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova that is by Constitution a supreme representative body of the nation.
- **On 10th of March, 2017** a public appeal to the Speaker of the Parliament, Adrian Candu requiring the withdrawal of the draft law aiming at the modification of the election system was issued and signed by 18 NGOs.
- **On 23rd of March, 2017** TI-Moldova and its' partner IDIS Viitorul organised a press-conference with the title „The legal framework that regulates the activity of the state enterprises needs substantial modifications based on corporate governance standards”. The partner NGOs came with a package of proposals to improve the draft law on state and municipal enterprises. By present, a part of them has been taken into consideration in the draft law.
- **On 5th of April, 2017** a public appeal was issued that require the Parliament to modify the election process strictly in line with the recommendations of the Constitutional Court and the recommendations of national and international election monitoring missions.
- **On 5th of May, 2017** a public appeal „The parliamentary majority modifies the electoral system with law infringements, undermining democracy” that was initiated by many members of the WG1 and signed by 24 NGOs.



- **On 19th of May, 2017** a public declaration “The attack on civil society organizations is inadmissible and erodes trust in state authorities” was issued.
- **On 30th of June, 2017** a public declaration titled „The initiative to change the election system can not be improved – it needs to be withdrawn” (mixed election system) was made.
- **On 13th of June, 2017** a public appeal requiring a transparent employment contest in the National Agency for Solving Contestations and urging to ensure the functionality of this institution was issued.
- **On 5th of July, 2017** a public declaration with the title „The Decision of the Superior Council of Magistracy as an act of selective justice” was issued.
- **On 11th of July, 2017** a public declaration “The attempt to limit foreign funding of NGOs endangers the functioning of democracy in Moldova and cannot, be accepted under any circumstances”.
- **On 1st of September, 2017** a public declaration with a request to the public authorities to investigate and punish all persons responsible for the death under suspicious circumstances of the detainee Andrei Braguta.
- **On 4th of September, 2017** members of WG1 issued a public appeal addressed to the Integrity Council requiring the justification of the admissibility of candidates for positions in the National Integrity Authority and to ensure a transparent process of selection of candidates for the position of the Chair and Vice-chair of this institution.
- **On 22nd of September**, several members of WG 1 issued a public appeal to condemn the illegal arrest of Alexei Alexeev, qualifying this action as an attempt to intimidate the protesters against an oligarchic system. Declaration of the Moldovan National Platform was developed not to merge the Ministry of Environment of Moldova with the Ministry of Agriculture in the new structure of the Government of Moldova. Declaration was sent to the Government and the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova, to the EU Delegation in the Republic of Moldova and to the group of experts who were in charge of the institutional reform.

The National Platform members participated in the protest against the construction of hydropower plants on the course of Dniester river upstream Novodnistrovsk hydropower plant built on Dniester river in Ukraine, which leaves Dniester river downstream the plant on the Moldovan territory without water. The declaration was sent to the Government of Ukraine, Embassy of Ukraine in Moldova, Government of Moldova and EU Delegation in Moldova.

Members of the National Platform developed a statement on the improvement of the Law on Waste according to EU standards which will improve waste management in Moldova and sent it to the Government and Parliament of Moldova. The new Law on Waste was adopted in 2016 but with the possibility to co-incinerate municipal waste, meaning that it should be landfilled. The EU countries co-incinerate municipal waste producing energy.

GENERAL INFO ABOUT THE NP AND WG (SUB-GROUPS)

New members were attracted in the Platform and the mechanism of applying to the Platform was developed. New members should send their request which is circulated among all the platform members. In case there is information that the NGO is GONGO or there are any other doubts that the NGO can't be a part of the Platform, the NGOs share their concerns in the e-mailing list of the Platform members. The number of recruited NGOs was 8, thus the National Platform now is formed out of 80 NGOs.



The regulation of operation of the National Platform was improved. It was discussed at the first meeting of the National Platform in March 2017, and recommendations were sent to the National Coordinator of the Platform.

It was proposed to have joint meetings of WGs and visit the Northern and Southern districts of Moldova to disseminate results of EU projects and make them

known among the local population, and this initiative was supported also by the EU Ambassador in Moldova, who said that representatives of the EU Delegation in Moldova will happily join the visits in the regions, but in end, due to lack of funding, no visits were held. It is important to continue the dialogue with the EU Delegation in Moldova in order to see if funding is available for the visits in the regions, especially, before Parliamentary elections of autumn 2018.

Meetings of WGs were held several times during the year, except WG5 which did not hold meetings during 2017.