

ANNUAL ACTIVITIES REPORT

UKRAINIAN NATIONAL PLATFORM JANUARY 2016 – NOVEMBER 2016



WORKING GROUP 1 “Democracy, Human Rights, Good Governance and Stability”

Group coordinator : Hennadiy Maksak

The Working Group 1 “Democracy, human rights, good governance and stability” (WG1) is the largest working group of the Ukrainian National Platform of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum (EaP CSF UNP). Currently 67 NGOs are members of this Working Group.

According to the results of the UNP Annual Conference in 2015, as well as the plans of implementation of the Association Agreement between the European Union and Ukraine and the Association Agenda, the priorities of the Working Group 1 for 2016 were defined as follows:

1. Human rights protection, including in occupied Crimea and Donbass;
2. The issue of Ukraine’s security in the context of cooperation with the EU;
3. Promotion of visa-free regime between the EU and Ukraine;
4. Support for the implementation of the reform of public administration in Ukraine;
5. Anticorruption reforms in the context of the implementation of the EU requirements.



KEY ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED BY WORKING GROUP 1

1. Human rights protection, including in the occupied Crimea and Donbass

- On 9 November 2016, the appeal (initiated by the UNP) to the European institutions to release from prison Nadia Savchenko was adopted (<http://eap-csf.org.ua/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/EaP-CSF-Statement-on-the-Release-Savchenko.pdf>).
- Communicating with the representatives of the EaP CSF Secretariat, the coordinator of WG1 proposed to conduct a special event in Brussels, where the members of WG1 would have had the opportunity to invite the representatives of the European Commission, the European Parliament, the European External Action Service and talk about the situation with human rights in the occupied Crimea. The event was initially planned for June 2016. However, because of problems internal to the WG, the event was held in September 2016. The representative of WG1 was present at the closed meeting with the European politicians and public servants.
- In April 2016 the appeal on the situation in the occupied Crimea was adopted (prepared by Natalia Belitser). The appeal was addressed to Ukrainian authorities and the OSCE institutions (<http://eap-csf.org.ua/pidtrimano-zvernennya-shhodo-okupovanogo-krimu/>). A range of institutions responded to the appeal.
- Initiated by WG1 member Natalia Belitser, the statement of the UNP EaP CSF Steering Committee on Ilmi Umerov's forced hospitalization was prepared. The statement was addressed to the European institutions (<http://eap-csf.org.ua/zayava-kerivnogo-komitetu-fgs-shp-shhodo-primusovoyi-gospitalizatsiyi-ilmi-umerova/>).
- On 23-24 September 2016 in Kyiv, the Ukrainian National Platform together with the NGO "Bureau for Gender Strategies and Budgeting" held a two-day seminar-training on "The integration of gender approach into the work of the Ukrainian National Platform of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum" (supported by Friedrich Ebert Foundation in Ukraine). These are the issues which were examined: the advantages of gender mainstreaming for NGOs development; the ways of introducing gender approaches into the activities of the UNP and NGOs; the ethics of equality and non-discrimination in the activities of the Ukrainian National Platform.
- In October the Ukrainian delegation actively participated in the regional event of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum in Moldova dedicated to human rights protection.

2. Ukraine's security in the context of the cooperation with the European Union

- In the beginning of June 2016, a special panel on security in the Eastern Partnership region was held in Brussels; the panel was initiated by the UNP. The representatives of the European External Action Service also took part in the event and were acquainted with certain recommendations of the CSF members regarding the problems in the sphere of security. The prospects for the adoption of the EU Global Strategy were discussed.
- In July 2016, the Ukrainian delegation took active part in the regional event of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum in Georgia, where the issues of regional security and the opportunities for cooperation within the framework of the Eastern Partnership initiative were discussed.
- At the end of September 2016, the Foreign Policy Council "Ukrainian Prism", in partnership with the UNP subgroup on security issues, held the expert debates "Ukraine-EU: the prospects for cooperation in the security sphere". During these debates, the recommendations for the EU institutions and Ukrainian authorities in the sphere of security, implementation of the Common Security and Defence Policy were presented. The event was supported by Friedrich Ebert Foundation in Ukraine.

3. Promotion of visa-free regime between the EU and Ukraine

- In May 2016, the statement of the UNP Steering Committee (which was actively promoted by the UNP National Coordinator Iryna Sushko) on the possible postponing of the visa-free regime for Georgia and Ukraine was supported <http://eap-csf.org.ua/zayava-kerivnogo-komitetu-forumu-gromadyanskogo-suspilstva-shidnogo-partnerstva-2/>
- In June 2016, the flashmob (actively supported by Ukrainian members of the EaP CSF) near the buildings of the European institutions to support a visa-free regime for Ukraine and Georgia was organized.

4. Support to the implementation of the reform of public administration in Ukraine

- In February 2016, the statement (initiated by UNP members Liubov Akulenko and Iryna Sushko) on the position of the Vice Prime Minister on European integration was prepared. The statement received a response from the Office of the President of the European Council (<http://eap-csf.org.ua/vidpovid-veuropeyskoyi-radi-na-zayavu-shhodo-posadi-vitse-prem-yer-ministr-z-pitan-veuropeyskoyi-integratsiyi/>).
- At the beginning of September, the UNP members approved the statement of the National Ukrainian Platform (author – Volodymyr Kupriy) on the reform of public administration in Ukraine, where the support to the measures aimed at

reforming the public administration, and the appeal to approve the Draft Law “On service in the local self-government bodies” (№ 2489) as soon as possible were expressed.

- The EaP CSF UNP supported the statement (author – Volodymyr Kupriy) calling upon the MPs of Ukrainian Parliament and the President to support the Draft Law «On the National commission conducting the state regulation in the energy sphere and public utilities» (№2966-d), and to ensure a fast signing and publishing of the law to implement it immediately (<http://eap-csf.org.ua/zayava-unp-shhodo-rozglyadu-zakonoproektu-2966-d-u-povtornomu-drugomu-chitanni/>).

5. Anticorruption reforms in the context of the implementation of the EU requirements

- At the beginning of September 2016, the members of the EaP CSF UNP supported the appeal on introducing e-declarations in Ukraine, calling upon both politicians and civic activists to be prudent and moderate in their estimates.

6. Participation in the re-granting projects competition

Member organizations of the Working Group 1 actively participated in the re-granting projects competition held by the EaP Civil Society Forum. In particular, the following projects with an active participation of Ukrainian NGOs (WG1 members) were supported:

- The project “The reform of public administration and the reform of decentralization in the countries-members of the Eastern Partnership” (Azerbaijan, Belarus, Armenia, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine). The project is being implemented by the Association of Local Democracy Agencies (ALDA), together with the partners from the Eastern partnership countries. The contact person for the project in Ukraine is Volodymyr Kupriy. The main activities include: expert inquiry, preparing the report on each country, elaboration of recommendations for the national policy makers and the EU.
- The project «Joining efforts and skills to confront propaganda» (Azerbaijan, Belarus, Armenia, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine, Slovakia). Contact person on monitoring issues in Ukraine: Andriy Kulakov (NGO “Internews”). The main activities include a development of methodology and conducting the media monitoring in the countries of the Eastern Partnership, revealing the manipulations and strengthening the instruments to counter propaganda.
- The project «Developing a single strategy on Gender Equality for the EaP CSF». The contact person in Ukraine is Tetyana Ivanina (Bureau for Gender Strategies and Budgeting).

- Project «Security Alert on EU’s Eastern Doorsteps». The contact person in Ukraine is Hanna Shelest, “Promotion of intercultural cooperation”. The project aimed at studying the challenges to security in the Eastern Partnership countries.

7. Other activities

- In May 2016, the open appeal on convergence of Ukrainian legislation to the EU law (initiated by WG1 members and authored by Lesia Shevchenko) was supported (<http://eap-csf.org.ua/vidkrite-zvernennya-shhodo-nablizhennya-zakonodavstva-ukrayini-do-prava-yevropeyskogo-soyuzu/>).
- In August, the statement of Ukrainian and Polish organizations to our societies (initiated by the representatives of the EaP CSF WG1), with the appeal to refrain from the political speculations on historical issues, was published. The appeal was signed by more than 140 NGOs from Ukraine and Poland.

WORKING GROUP 2 “Economic integration and convergence with EU policies”

Working Group coordinator: Yuriy Vdovenko

KEY TOPICS/ISSUES OF FOCUS FOR THE WORKING GROUP 2

During the Annual Conference of the Ukrainian National Platform of the Eastern Civil Society Forum held on 30 October 2015, the following priorities of the Working Group 2 for the year 2016 were defined:

- Small and medium business;
- Territorial, regional and cross-border cooperation;
- Tax system and public finances;
- Harmonization of the digital markets.

Moreover, the UNP Working Group 2 is following the Working agenda for 2014-2017 of the Platform 2, and the priorities of the Working Group 2 of the Civil Society Forum.

Working on the mentioned priorities, the members of the Working Group 2 participate in the implementation of the following projects funded under the EaP CSF re-granting scheme:

- “Small Business Act for Europe and Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Areas - Roadmap for Economic Development of Moldova, Georgia and Ukraine using the experience of Latvia overcoming the economic crisis”;
- “WG2 DCFTA enshrined Geographic Indications/GIs for non-wine food products: A boost for partnership- based rural development in EaP”;
- “Eastern Partnership - Information Society Instead of War”.



At the international level, various opportunities are used to promote the national interests in the economic sphere in the dialogue with stakeholders from the European Commission (The Directorate General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations), The European External Action Service (the Eastern Partnership, Regional Cooperation and OSCE Department), the Secretariat of “The EU for Business”, the European

Investment Bank, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

The position of the UNP Working Group 2 is reflected in the statements of the EaP Civil Society Forum. In particular, within the framework of the EaP Informal Partner Dialogue the coordinator of the Working Group 2 Yuriy Vdovenko presented the position document to the EU Commissioner Johannes Hahn and the EaP Ministries, which focused, in particular, on the issue of small business development. The new challenges and possible answers, related to further EU enlargement and the EaP countries, were presented by the coordinator of UNP WG2 at the conference “The European Neighbourhood Policy and Eastern Partnership – beyond 2020” during the Slovak Presidency of the Council of the European Union. At the conference “Security Challenges of the EU’s Eastern Neighbourhood”, recommendations were elaborated at the end of the session “Trade and finances as the mechanisms of influence under the Eastern Partnership”.

In the meanwhile, the members of the Working Group 2 continue to work on the implementation of certain initiatives in Ukraine according to the defined priorities, for instance:

- Promotion of reforms in the regions (The Institute for Economic Research and Policy Consulting);
- Information campaign “Stronger Together”;
- Civic School on the best EU practices (NGO “Polissya Foundation for International and Regional Studies”);

- The cross-sectoral partnership for development of the border territories: experience of the countries of the Visegrad group for Ukraine and Belarus (NGO “The Centre for Cross-Border Cooperation”).

After the poll among the UNP members held by the Steering Committee, 22 NGOs confirmed their status of members of the Working Group 2.

Additional information:

This year Ukraine has received a substantial support from the European Union to implement the reforms that have a crucial importance in the economic sphere. The following programs have been launched: “Support for Introducing the Association Agreement between the EU and Ukraine”; “U-LEAD with Europe: Ukraine Local Empowerment, Accountability and Development”; the Eastern Partnership Territorial Cooperation Support Programme, «Civic Synergy: Strengthening Participation in European Integration Reforms through EU-Ukraine Civil Society Platform and Ukrainian National Platform of the EaP Civil Society Forum”.

WORKING GROUP 3

”Environment, climate change and energy security”

Working Group coordinator : Andriy Chubyk

As of 1 November 2016, the Working Group 3 of the Ukrainian National Platform of the EaP Civil Society Forum includes 26 NGOs working in the following areas: energy security, environment protection, fighting climate change, green economics and sustainable development.

The activities of the Working Group 3 are based on the general priorities of the EaP Civil Society Forum and the international Working Group 3 (please see, in particular <http://eap-csf.eu/en/working-groups/wg3-environment-energy/>). The Working Group 3 is also engaged in the work of the Panel on environment protection and climate change within the framework of Platform 2. The Working Group 3 is open for cooperation with the colleagues from the Working Group 2 “Economic integration and convergence with EU policies”, since both working groups (and corresponding Platforms) work on certain issues related to sustainable development such as the green economy. The EaP Panel on environment protection and climate change is aimed at strengthening the cooperation and knowledge exchange on government environmental policy, climate change and green economy.

KEY TOPICS/ISSUES OF FOCUS FOR THE WORKING GROUP 3

The activities of the Working Group 3 focus on the following aspects:

- **Energy security and climate change:**

Development of a comprehensive sustainable development energy policy for the EaP region, which would take into consideration the national interests and improve the environment protection (including biodiversity), ensure an energy efficiency and readiness to withstand the challenges of climate change, and decrease a dependence on the import of energy carriers or one dominant energy source.

- **Environment protection, biodiversity, and agriculture:**

Support for introducing the environmental aspects into the national policies of the EaP countries (for instance industry, transport, regional development, budget, agriculture, forestry, etc.)

- **Information, education, development of institutional capacity, rise of environmental awareness:**

Introducing the principles of sustainable development education in the national education systems, sharing experience from the EU countries to the EaP countries, conducting mass education campaigns aimed at increasing the environmental awareness and the knowledge on energy efficiency and renewable energy.

EVENTS HELD BY THE WORKING GROUP 3 DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD

- 1) Studying the opportunities for cooperation between the EaP countries and the EU within the framework of the Energy Union;
- 2) Studying the EU experience on intellectual house management and community energy consumption;
- 3) Studying the environmental impact of the extractive sector and the military counteraction to Russian aggression to the East of Ukraine;
- 4) Advocacy activities for the introduction some European Union norms on energy and environment in the Ukrainian national legislation;
- 5) Participation (on behalf of CSF) in the meetings of thematic platforms of the Eastern Partnership initiative in the format “EU – the governments of EaP countries”, presenting the civil society position on energy security, environmental issues, energy efficiency;
- 6) Participation in the working meetings and trainings for the representatives of the EaP countries on the regulatory and climate issues;

- 7) Conducting the working meeting of the Working Group 3 (in April 2016);
- 8) Participation in the session of WG3 EaP CSF in Brussels;
- 9) Education and advocacy activities in the regions to protect the environment, to conduct an environmental estimation of the economic activities, to promote the conservation of nature sanctuaries (the steppes near Pivdennyi Bug river).

PROPOSED ACTIVITIES TO BE IMPLEMENTED BY THE WORKING GROUP 3 WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE UNP IN 2017

1. To promote the engagement of Ukrainian NGOs (the participants of WG3) into European thematic events and surveys, in particular Horizon 2020;
2. To promote the sharing of experience among the EaP countries, especially with Moldova and Georgia (members of the Energy Union) and cooperation between NGOs on the WG3 thematic directions;
3. To initiate and support the projects, to promote participation of NGOs from WG3 in the CSF re-granting programme;
4. To stretch a database of the the members of UNP Working Group 3 with information about each organization expertise and the names and contacts of delegated experts;
5. To promote, prepare and disseminate the analytical studies on the thematic priorities of the Working Group 3 under the project “Civic Synergy”;
6. To coordinate and ensure communication while conducting the analytical surveys, advocacy campaigns and public discourses in order to achieve a balanced social cost of the energy development, careful decision-making process, with compulsory environmental analysis and proper risk estimation;
7. To participate in the process of elaboration of the project agenda on implementation of the Declaration of the Council of Ministers (text in Ukrainian http://mama-86.org/images/attachments/218/UKR_draft_Declaration_last.pdf) and the required indexes for the EaP countries related to the key achievements necessary for good environmental governance;
8. To monitor and evaluate the process of introduction of the Declaration in Ukraine and other EaP countries (Georgia, Moldova), to prepare a two-year report on the reform of environmental governance (institutions plus efficiency of environmental policy);
9. To be involved in education campaigns aimed at increasing social awareness on the efficient use of energy resources, energy saving and self-organization of communities with the aim to introduce the usage of local renewable energy resources.

PROPOSALS TO THE DELEGATES OF THE UNP WORKING GROUP 3 AT THE ANNUAL ASSEMBLY

1. The Appeal to the European Commission to include the representatives of the international Working Group 3 on the list of participants of the Energy Union events on a regular basis;
2. To create the database of experts and their respective spheres of expertise. To advocate for their inclusion on the list of the advisory bodies of the European Commission and the European Parliament, other authorities of the European Union and the EU-countries.

WORKING GROUP 4 “Contacts between people”

Group coordinator: Maria Symonova

Summary: As of November 1, 2016, the UNP Working Group 4 includes 37 NGOs. The structure of WG4 subgroups (Culture, Education, Youth, Conflict Resolution) has remained unchanged. The activities of the Working Group 4 have been focusing in 2016 on the priorities defined by the members of the international WG4 at the Annual Assembly 2015.

EVENTS HELD BY THE WORKING GROUP 4 DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD

Meeting of the Council of the Working Group 4 “Contacts between people”

March 2016, Bratislava

Format: a working meeting of the Council of the Working Group 4 (the representatives of 6 EaP countries and the coordinators from the EU and the EaP sides).

Main topics: the meeting was devoted to initiating, discussing and preparing the Youth Conference “Youth for Rights” (Eastern Partnership Youth Conference) and the presentation of the methodology of the international survey **Youth Emigration from the EaP countries** (the representatives of Ukrainian WG4 were the main initiators and authors).

Details: for a summary of the survey, the implementation of which is planned for 2017, please see

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B3Nr1jmmWoB4U1hwam0yYWFleGZ2UktnS1U2YnRKWVZDaUlv/view?usp=sharing>

Open meeting with the Minister of Education and Science of Ukraine
The Reanimation Package of Reforms
May 2016

Format: a meeting-discussion with the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine Lilia Hrynevych, in which the representatives of civil society, as well as students and representatives of institutions working in the education sphere took part.

Main topics: the key issues for the Government's agenda setting in the education sphere are the secondary and primary education, the adoption of the framework law "On education" and the changes in the system of education financing. Corruption in the education system of Ukraine remains a major issue of concern.

Details: <http://rpr.org.ua/news/borotba-z-koruptsiyju-nash-prioritytet-hrynevych/>

Discussion on reforming the system of financing the high education in Ukraine
The Reanimation Package of Reforms
July 2016

Format: an open meeting of the First Deputy of the Minister of Education and Science of Ukraine Inna Sovsun (currently Ms. Sovsun doesn't take up this post) with the activists of civil society and student youth.

Main topics: the speaker has publicly presented the Project of changes in the system of financing the high education in Ukraine. The problems of optimization of sharing the budget costs for education needs, the principles of transparency and efficiency in the use of financial resources by the universities, the prospects for increasing the financing for scientific purpose in Ukrainian universities were discussed during the meeting.

Details:

<http://mitla.org.ua/uk/news/item/62-finansuvannia-vyshchoi-osvity-zamist-derzhavnoho-zamovlennia-shcho-zminytsia.html>

Youth conference "Youth For Rights"
26-29 October 2016, Bratislava

It took half of year to prepare this event, with two preparatory meetings in Bratislava and Kyiv. The preparatory team included the Council of the CSF Working Group 4, and the coordinators of the thematic subgroups of the Working Group 4.

The preparatory activities have been conducted on a voluntary basis (except for the invited trainers, experts and facilitators conducting their work directly during the three-days event).

Format: an international event for young activists in the sphere of human rights protection ; general number of participants – 150 persons from 6 EaP countries, EU and Russia.

Main events: during the conference, discussions according to 5 thematic directions (Youth for Democracy, Youth for Inclusion, Youth for education, Youth for environment, Youth at work) was conducted. Some urgent issues related to human rights protection, according to which the thematic panel discussions have been formed, were examined. As result, the resolution for the immediate release of all political prisoners in EaP countries was approved, and the package of recommendations for the foreign stakeholders was developed.

Web page of the event:

<http://beta.eap-csf.eu/index.php/eastern-partnership-youth-conference-youth-for-rights/>

WORKING GROUP 5 “Social and Labour Policies and Social Dialogue”

Coordinator: Viacheslav Roy

As of 1 November 2016, the UNP Working Group 5 (WG5) includes 38 NGOs.

KEY TOPICS/ISSUES OF FOCUS FOR THE WORKING GROUP 5

The meeting of the members of the Working Group 5 of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum during the 7th Annual Assembly (2015), as well as the meeting of the EaP SCF Working Group 5 (March 29, 2016), defined the following priorities for WG5 activities:

1. Social dialogue:

- Evaluation and monitoring of the state of social dialogue in Ukraine in order to regulate the labour, social, economic relationships and to ensure the improvement of life quality and social stability in the society;
- Preparation of the expert recommendations to improve social dialogue in Ukraine (taking into consideration the international standards and positive legislative experiences in the Eastern Partnership countries).
- Institutional development and introduction of the social dialogue and its bodies in the Constitution of Ukraine; preparation of proposals to improve the legislation in the sphere of social dialogue. In particular, this concerns the participation of civil society actors in certain forms of social dialogue, such as the consultations and coordinating procedures.

2. Social and labour conflicts:

- Information and education measures on the role of mediation for social and labour conflicts resolution.

- Preparation of recommendations for the implementation of the principles of mediation for social and labour conflicts resolution in Ukraine.

3. Labour legislation:

- Regular expert monitoring of labour legislation in Ukraine.
- Participation of the members of WG5 in revising the Draft Labour Code of Ukraine in order to regulate and improve the social and labour relationships and inform the wider public on the reform of labour legislation in Ukraine.

4. Cooperation with the European Social and Economic Committee (ESEC):

- Establishing cooperation with the ESEC aimed at creation of the Platform 5.

EVENTS HELD BY THE WORKING GROUP 5 DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD

During the reporting period, 3 meetings of the Working Group 5 were held (3 December 2015; 29 March 2016, 13 May 2016).

During the meetings, the participants conducted estimation and monitoring of the situation on the social dialogue in Ukraine in order to regulate the labour, social, economic relationships and to ensure the improvement of life quality and social stability in the society.

The members of the UNP Working Group 5 are working to prepare the expert recommendations on the improvement of social dialogue in Ukraine, which would take into consideration the international standards and positive legislative experiences of the European Union and the Eastern Partnership countries.



On 21 September 2016, the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine presented for public discussion **the Draft Law of Ukraine „On introducing the amendments to the Law of Ukraine ‘On Social Dialogue in Ukraine’**”, regarding the engagement of civil society actors. This draft law was elaborated to implement p.52 of the Plan of activities on the implementation of the National strategy in the sphere of human rights protection until 2020, adopted by the Government Decree No.1393-p (23 November 2015).

In Ukrainian civil society there is not a single position regarding the amendments to the Draft Law “On Social Dialogue in Ukraine” proposed by the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine. A part of NGOs supports these reforms, considering that such changes will broaden the number of social dialogue participants and will involve more NGOs to the social dialogue.

Another part of NGOs stresses that this draft law proposes to engage into social dialogue (for participation in the consultations, information exchange) the civil society actors (NGOs), which are not provided with a status of partner in social dialogue. The proposed version of the draft law will lead to conflict, as the law violates the rule of law principle because of the controversial interpretations of its norms and the actual substitution of the concepts of social and civic dialogue, things that might potentially decrease the legitimacy of this law. This part of Ukrainian civil society does not support the adoption of the draft law in such version, and time will tell if these NGOs recommendation will be taken into account.

At the moment, the Working Group 5 is dealing with the elaboration and discussion of the amendments to the Law of Ukraine “**On collective agreements and contracts**”. The information regarding the proposed amendments to this law is not disseminated to the wider public, limiting the right of NGOs to be involved in the process.



In the sphere of labour legislation, the participants of WG5 conduct a regular expert monitoring of the labour legislation of Ukraine.

At the meeting of the Working Group 5 which took place on 13 May 2016, the participants elaborated the text of the appeal of the UNP EaP SCF regarding the Draft Labour Code of Ukraine. WG5 made the

decision to address this appeal to the Government and the leadership of Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine to ensure an open and public discussion of the problematic issues contained in the Draft Labour Code in the format of parliamentary hearings where the organizations of trade unions and employers, media and other interested NGOs would be able to participate. The appeal was approved by the Working Group 5 of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum, and EaP CSF Steering Committee (<http://eap-csf.eu/ru/news-events/news/strengthening-social-dialogue-in-the-eap-countries-working-group-5-annual-meeting/>; <http://eap-csf.eu/ru/news-events/news/ukrainian-national-platform-and-working-group-5-concerned-about-the-draft-labour-code-of-ukraine>).

Unfortunately, we are forced to acknowledge the unwillingness of the authorities to cooperate with NGOs. The position of the authorities is limited to the necessity to conduct the consultations with the traditional representatives of civil society: the Common representative body of trade unions, and the Common representative body of employers. In the meanwhile, the authorities do not civil society organizations. This didn't allow the members of WG5 to participate in revising the Draft Labour Code of Ukraine in order to regulate and improve the

social and labour relationships and to inform the public on reforming the labour legislation in Ukraine.

On 12 July 2016, the meeting of the EU Commissioner on the European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations Johannes Hahn with the representatives of civil society of was held. The members of WG5 informed the EU Commissioner about the idea of the EaP SCF Working Group 5 to organize a thematic panel on “Labour market, migration processes and adaptation of the labour market under the European integration (as the basis of social security in the region)” during the Annual Assembly in November 2016. It’s good to notice that the EU Commissioner J.Hahn supported this initiative and expressed his readiness to participate in the thematic discussion during the Assembly 2016. The issues concerning a lack of parallel cross-government thematic platform under the EaP SCF WG5, the limitations to social dialogue in Ukraine, the problems emerging from the Draft Labour Code of Ukraine were also discussed.