

Annual Activities Report 2016

WORKING GROUP 3

Environment, Climate Change and Energy Security Activity report for 2016



GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT WG3

WG3 continues to work on its priorities with participation of all EaP CSF members who have joined the EaP CSF as WG3-registered participants. All past internal communication, the WG3 mailing list, procedures such as the development of position papers, and details of past participation in EU-EaP Panels and other meetings are available for existing members to view. Currently there are no formal sub-groups and all activities are coordinated by the WG co-coordinators in cooperation with WG Council.

WORKING GROUP ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

For the period of 2015-2016 Working Group 3 “Environment, Climate change and Energy Security” focused on the following priorities: **climate change** (with special attention to the UNFCCC process, including the Paris Agreement, and cooperation of EU and EaP countries in spheres of mitigation and adaptation to climate change); **energy security** (with focus on the Energy Union and its standpoint towards EU-EaP relations) and **sustainable development** (UNECE conference “Environment for Europe” with special attention to the topic of Green Economy).

WG3 members represented the CSF at numerous events and procedures on the level of EU-EaP communication and communication with the national governments and EU delegations. CSF views and positions were voiced during the following events and processes:

Climate Change

- On 16 February, the an ad-hoc meeting of the EaP Panel on Environment and Climate Change took place in Brussels in preparation for the EaP Ministerial on Environment. Two WG3 representatives were present and outlined civil society's views for the draft Declaration.

- On 26-27 May the 4th meeting of EaP Panel on Environment and Climate Change and Multi-stakeholders meeting and exchange of views on the Luxembourg Ministerial Meeting took place in Brussels. Six representatives from WG3 participated in the discussion of views on the draft Declaration and general process of EU-EaP cooperation on environment and climate change and discussed future priorities for cooperation with DG Climate, DG Environment and DG Near representatives and governmental delegations of EaP countries

- The 21st and 22nd Conferences of the Parties to United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change took place in December 2015 and November 2016. During the EaP CSF Annual Assembly of 2015 an Appeal on Climate Change issues to EU and EaP states was adopted and then promoted by WG3 members during COP21 in Paris. WG3 members participated in COP21 and COP22 as civil society observers.

Sustainable Development

- In June, a training session on Nature protection and National parks development for WG3 members took place in Bulgaria.

- The Eighth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference “GREENER, CLEANER, SMARTER” took place from 8-10 June in Batumi. The UNECE organized conference was selected as one of priority processes in the framework of the annual WG activities and attracted a lot of attention among members who were highly represented as civil society participants. WG3 members initiated and conducted two side events on behalf of the EaP CSF:

- 1) The side event “Environmental PPPs to implement SDGs in the EaP countries: from commitments to achieving targets” was conducted by EaP CSF in cooperation with the European EcoForum. The event was dedicated to the environmental pillar of the Sustainable Development Goals including knowledge sharing and cooperation with all stakeholders. Speakers from the EaP CSF, European Environmental Bureau and UNEP highlighted that the environmental sector remains sidelined and that governments underestimate its full importance. Attendees furthermore discussed ways of strengthening environmental policies, and the national perspectives of Ukraine and Moldova were outlined.
- 2) A side event on Advancing the Green Economy in Georgia was organized by WG3 of the Georgian National Platform of EaP CSF. Some of the subjects discussed were: GHG emissions inventory for 2010-2013 and the resultant mitigation measures in Georgia, as well as organic farming and the green economy. WG3 of the Georgian NP prepared a declaration which confirmed civil society commitments

to the improvement of environmental protection measures and advancing sustainable development through the promotion of energy efficient and environmentally friendly technologies in production. The declaration was sent to the government of Georgia.

- On 17-18 October the EaP Ministerial Meeting on Environment and Climate Change took place in Luxemburg. Two representatives of the EaP CSF, including the WG3 co-coordinator, participated in the Ministerial Meeting and addressed the meeting with the speech focused on green economy issues.

Energy Security

- The 5th Annual Workshop on Energy Regulators was organized in Vilnius 12-13 April prior to the EaP Platform 3 on Energy Security: ‘EaP Energy Regulatory Bodies, Data Collection and Data Management’ as a prerequisite for monitoring energy systems. Two members of WG3 attended the event.

- The 15th Meeting of the EaP Platform 3 on Energy Security: ‘Progress on the European Energy Union, Work Programme 2014-2017’ took place in June in Brussels and was attended by two representatives of EaP CSF WG3.

- The 16th meeting of the EaP Platform 3 on Energy Security is due to take place in Brussels in December and two representatives of WG3 are expected to attend.

REGRANTING PROJECTS

Three re-granting projects were supported in 2016. In terms of re-granting compared with 2015, this year was more successful, as more project proposals were submitted, more managed to pass the eligibility check and more were selected for financing (8 projects were submitted out of which 3 selected for financing in 2016, compared to 1 project proposal submitted which was selected for financing in 2015). WG members stressed the need to improve the mechanism of selection of projects to ensure its relevance to the current WG priorities. WG3 received funding of 42,279 euros towards this year’s projects. The re-granting projects were as follows:

- Mapping the Route for EaP Countries and the EU Cooperation within the Energy Union
- Promotion of Paludiculture in Black Sea Region Wetlands for Carbon Sequestration, Sustainable Development and Community-Based Renewable Energy
- Implementation of Waste Management Policies in EaP Countries According to the Association Agreement

COOPERATION WITH OTHER WORKING GROUPS

The Annual Meeting of WG3 was preceded by a joint capacity building session with WG2. The policy-oriented part of the capacity-building session was dedicated to Green Economy (with Angela Bularga, DG NEAR, Andreja Skerl, DG ENVI and Florian Peter Iwinjak, UNIDO as speakers). The skills-building part was tackling the issue of monitoring of development funding (with Petr Hlobil, Bankwatch, as a trainer).

AREAS FOR PROGRESS

Discussions took place in the WG3 Council on the re-shaping of WG3 activities and composition in order to strengthen its capacity to operate effectively and reflect the current structure of EU-EaP relations within the EaP CSF. Among other options, it was decided to focus on strengthening of linkage with other Working Groups. This resulted in the aforementioned joint capacity building session with WG2. Nevertheless, the question of effective operation remains open and needs further attention.

MEDIA MENTIONS

Article: “Perpetuum mobile европейской энергетики”, Андрей Чубик, Наталия Слободян, June, http://gazeta.zn.ua/energy_market/perpetuum-mobile-evropeyskoy-energetiki-tml, “Зеркало недели. Украина”