



## Annual Activities Report 2018

### WORKING GROUP 4

#### MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS:

- Effective participation of WG4 members in the respective panels and thematic events;
- Successful conduct of the EaP Youth Conference “Youth for Entrepreneurship” held on 8-9 November 2018 in Vienna, Austria;
- Established/strengthened synergies and cooperation with key stakeholders working in the EaP region such as DG NEAR, SALTO-Youth Eastern Europe and Caucasus Center, FES Regional Office “Dialogue Eastern Europe”, etc.

#### THE KEY FOCUS AREAS AND RESULTS ACHIEVED:

WG4 activity was guided by priority directions as outlined in the WG4 Annual Work Plan for 2018. WG4 members have attended and promoted respective issues at various events on national and international level, including EaP platform 4 meeting and its panels, thematic workshops, as well as activities organized by the EaP CSF and the NPs. The following key events can be highlighted, where EaP CSF representatives have delivered messages based on preliminary developed position papers:

#### Eastern Partnership Migration and Asylum Panel

On 14-15 December 2017, the *Eastern Partnership Migration and Asylum Panel* was held in Warsaw to discuss economic integration of migrants at both the EU and national levels, including the effectiveness of the existing policies. The EaP CSF was represented by two WG5 members, namely Dzmitry Babicki, CASE (Belarus) and Olena Malynovska, National Institute for Strategic Studies (Ukraine). The event gathered experts from the EU Member States, EaP countries, European institutions, UN agencies, OSCE and the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD). During the meeting, participants showed their willingness to cooperate with the civil society, especially on the topics where CSOs can play a major role, such as defending labour rights of migrants and supporting diaspora organizations. Some positive impact from the implementation of migrant integration policies in Armenia, Georgia and Moldova were also highlighted.



Dzmitry Babicki presented the conclusions of the study the impact of social dialogue on the optimisation of labour migration in Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine conducted in the framework of the EaP CSF Re-granting project. He focused on the role of trade unions in policy dialogue, the need for measures on supporting migrants, the issue of ageing societies

and shrinking retirement funds in relation to labour migration. Olena Malynovska took an active part in the discussions on the migrant support programmes and the role of diaspora in the economic integration of migrants. Position paper is available at <https://eap-csf.eu/eap-csf-participated-in-the-discussion-on-economic-integration-of-migrants-at-the-eap-migration-and-asylum-panel-meeting/>

### **EaP Platform 4 on Mobility and People-to-People Contacts**

On 19 June 2018, the meeting of the ***EaP Platform 4 on Mobility and People-to-People Contacts*** took place in Brussels, where EaP CSF was represented by Oleg Shatberashvili, the Georgian Federation for Information and Documentation (Georgia), and Mariia Symonova, MITLA Agency of Changes (Ukraine). They presented the civil society view on mobility and migration, research and innovation, youth employment and transition from education to work.

Mariia Symonova highlighted the need to reach out to the marginalised youth to ensure that more young people learn about Erasmus and other opportunities. Oleg Shatberashvili pointed out that none of the EaP Multilateral Platforms is as future-oriented as Platform 4. He also stressed that the Platform should be further utilized for strengthening the mobility and migration aspects, especially in light of the clear nexus between migration and development. Projects on research mobility should be supported under the Horizon 2020. Position paper is available at <http://eap-csf.eu/eap-csf-at-the-first-platform-4-on-mobility-and-people-to-people-contacts-in-2018/>

### **EaP Panel on Education, Youth and Culture**

On 5 July 2018, the EaP CSF contributed to the ***EaP Panel on Education, Youth and Culture*** that took place in Brussels under the Platform 4 “Mobility and People to People Contacts”. The Forum was represented by Liliana Postan, Labor Institute (Moldova) and Hovsep Khurshudyan, Free Citizen Civic Initiatives Support Center (Armenia). Furthermore, EaP CSF WG4 members Grigori Yeritsyan, Progressive Youth (Armenia), Mariia Symonova, MITLA (Ukraine), and Oleg Zhyvotovskyy, European Choice (Ukraine) attended the meeting.

At the meeting, the EaP CSF members presented a position paper on quality assurance in education which provides civil society recommendations regarding the implementation of the European Higher Education Area (EHEA) reforms in the EaP countries. The paper addresses the following issues: accreditation of diplomas of non-formal education (such as trainings, workshops, etc.); equal conditions of work and access to the education market for all education and learning providers; access to quality education in rural areas, including better conditions for teachers willing to work in rural areas; professional development opportunities and increasing salaries of academics, teachers and support staff; enabling civil society role as a watchdog of promoting quality education; assurances of autonomy and self-governance of higher education establishments; lowering the EU projects co-funding threshold for NGOs working in the sphere of learning and skills; inclusive education with focus on seniors (especially fighting against “ageism”), persons with disabilities and minorities; perspective of instruments on monitoring/analysis/recommendations of quality assurances in education for non-AA countries; e-learning + digitalization as a tool in improving access to quality education, including lifelong learning; active participation of students in quality assurance

procedures, etc. Furthermore, the position paper also recommends the EU to contribute to this process by providing qualitative indicators; facilitating access of lifelong learning programmes; contributing to make EaP education systems more attractive; and supporting an increase on the budget for the education sector, especially in rural areas and conflict zones.

During the Annual WG4 Meeting which took place on 3-4 July 2018 in Brussels, our members developed messages to deliver at the Panel on Education, Youth and Culture, as well to the EU stakeholders who attended the meeting. They elaborated on youth employability and entrepreneurship, culture, peace building and contacts between seniors. Both position papers are available at <http://eap-csf.eu/eap-csf-addresses-the-eap-panel-on-education-youth-and-culture-on-quality-assurance-on-education/>

### **EaP Panel on Migration, Mobility and IBM and Panel on Migration and Asylum**

EaP CSF representative Iryna Sushko, Europe without Barriers (Ukraine) took part in two events organized under **Platform 4, Panel 3: “Migration, Mobility and IBM – Integrated Border Management”**, namely **EaP Panel on Migration, Mobility and IBM** (27-28 September 2018, Odessa, Ukraine) and **EaP Panel on Migration and Asylum: Meeting on Information Campaigns** (11-12 October, Tbilisi, Georgia). Iryna Sushko stressed the need for civil society engagement in formulating and implementing policies that affect borders and border regions.

The panel in Odessa, hosted by the Ukrainian State Border Guard Service – with the support from DG HOME, DG NEAR and IOM, focused specifically on the concept of IBM. Panelists looked closely at the way it currently functions in EU and EaP countries, addressing some of its present challenges and obstacles. EaP CSF contributed to the meeting by presenting a position paper “Civil Society Perspective: EaP Social and Public Dimension of Integrated Border Management (IBM)”, drafted for this occasion.



In the position paper for this panel, Sushko provides a set of recommendations – to the border guard agencies of different EaP countries, the European Commission and EaP CSF itself. Civil society must be recognised as a full partner, facilitating the implementation of policies on border management. Its role cannot be underestimated, both as a source of expertise and channel to reach out to public opinion – on border issues, migration, human rights and other, important cross-cutting issues. Any policies on this topic must actively engage local communities, who inhabit border regions – we also learn from the paper.

The second panel which took place in Tbilisi, highlighted issues related to the growth of irregular migration, violation of visa-free and Schengen rules, as well as the asylum

system – in the context of EaP countries. The participants examined different information campaigns, clarifying both the rights and obligations brought by the visa-free regime. The EaP CSF representative contributed to the discussion on what key elements of information campaign lead to successful behaviour changes of its target audience. Position paper is available at <http://eap-csf.eu/eap-csf-contributes-to-eap-migration-panels/>

### **EaP Platform 4 Thematic workshop**

On 27-28 September 2018, the EaP CSF member Ana Indoitu, National Youth Council of Moldova participated in the *EaP Platform 4 thematic workshop “Improving skills anticipation approaches in the age of digital data and industry 4.0”* which took place in Dublin, Ireland. Ana Indoitu presented the situation in each EaP country focusing on vocational education and different policy approaches, used to address growing demand for certain skills.

The aim of the workshop was to facilitate exchange of best practices and capacity-building within EaP Platform 4 “Make It Match” experts’ network. Aside from becoming familiar with institutional arrangements and existing forecasting mechanisms in Ireland – the host country, those taking part in the workshop had a chance to get to know EU’s instruments for matching skills and occupations presented by EURES Mobility Portal and ESCO – European Skills, Competences, Qualifications and Occupations team.

The presentation gave way to discussion on the need to introduce similar, institutionalised research and data-collection mechanisms in the EaP countries, addressing skills and labour market tendencies. At the present moment, there is not enough sector communication and participatory policy design – especially in new and emerging fields, such as artificial intelligence, augmented reality or robotics. What is more, civil society could be a capable partner in private research and play an important role in advocating for better, more effective policy design and governance.

Position paper is available at <http://eap-csf.eu/eap-csf-contributes-to-eap-platform/>

### **EaP Research and Innovation Panel Event**

On 1 October 2018, the EaP CSF members took part in the *EaP Research and Innovation (R&I) Panel event*, entitled “*EU4Innovation – Fostering Research-Industry Partnerships*” under Platform 4 in Tbilisi, Georgia. The EaP CSF was represented by Tamaz Vashakidze, Centre of Innovative Development of Enterprises (Georgia), Oleg Shatberashvili, Association “European Studies for Innovative Development of Georgia” (Georgia) and Volodymyr Nochvai, Civic Union “Center for innovation development” (Ukraine). They have jointly presented a number of recommendations – touching on the issue of integration into European Research Area (ERA) and ailing national research systems.

Despite continuous support from the EU, and access to a number of specialised programmes – including Horizon 2020 or Competitiveness of Enterprises and Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (COSME), EaP countries still under-perform in their research output. EaP CSF position paper on EU4Innovation, submitted by Nochvai and Shatberashvili, points to some of the answers to this problem. In comparison to EU countries, R&I remains under-funded in the EaP region – we read in the paper. What is more, the current government policies and strategies, adopted at the national level need to be aligned to common objectives.

Currently, only Ukraine has adopted a roadmap into full integration with ERA – even though other countries could start their work on this issue, especially under the Association Agreements. Bringing the regulatory and institutional research framework closer to European standards will not only modernise the current system, but will also solve the problem of inconsistent, contradictory legislation affecting research. Position paper is available at <http://eap-csf.eu/eu4innovation-eap-ri-panel-event/>

## Second Eastern Partnership Youth Conference

On 8-9 November 2018, the *second Eastern Partnership Youth Conference “Youth for Entrepreneurship”* organised by the EaP CSF took place in Vienna, Austria with financial support provided by DG NEAR, Austrian Presidency of the Council of European Union, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung Regional office “Dialogue Eastern Europe” and Salto-Youth Eastern Europe and Caucasus Centre.



The conference which brought together over 100 young activists and entrepreneurs from the EaP countries, the EU, Turkey and Russia aimed to facilitate cooperation and contacts between the participants and to create stronger and trust-based links for the future.

Through participation in the Eastern Partnership Youth Conference 2018: “Youth for Entrepreneurship”,

young people had the possibility to discover methods, strategies and tools to cultivate entrepreneurial thinking and skills. Participants from the selected countries were equipped with essential entrepreneurial and business know-how to enable them to tackle community problems through quality youth work that promotes self-employment and socially-minded, entrepreneurial culture. Through input of experts working on social enterprises, these young people were introduced to working social enterprise models in EU and Eastern Partnership countries, to be able to apply entrepreneurial approach in their own communities.

During the Conference, the Research Paper prepared within the EaP CSF re-granting project “Youth Entrepreneurship in Eastern Partnership Countries: The Way Forward” has been presented. The document is assessing the current state, tendencies and policy environment of youth entrepreneurship in EaP countries, identifying obstacles and challenges to youth entrepreneurship in the region, providing a comparative regional perspective, paying attention to female entrepreneurship, social entrepreneurship and rural areas. It is providing examples of best practices from EU countries. Based on the identified challenges and case studies, the document is providing recommendations to various stakeholders for the promotion of youth entrepreneurship, including: EU institutions, EaP countries national governments, local governmental bodies, civil society organisations and business entities. The Research Paper is

available at [http://eap-csf.eu/wp-content/uploads/YOUTH\\_ENTREPRENEURSHIP\\_IN\\_EAP\\_THE\\_WAY\\_FORWARD.pdf](http://eap-csf.eu/wp-content/uploads/YOUTH_ENTREPRENEURSHIP_IN_EAP_THE_WAY_FORWARD.pdf)

The EaP Youth Conference is a biennial flagship event of the EaP CSF, which during the EaP Platform 4 meeting in Brussels on 14 December 2015 was consequently included into the EaP working plan, and stands out as a positive example of efficient cooperation with the civil society within the multilateral dimension of the Eastern Partnership policy. The results of the conference will be presented during the Eastern Partnership Annual Conference “a stronger economy for stronger societies” to be held in Vienna on December 7, 2018 as well as the EaP CSF 10th Annual Assembly, which will take place on 10-12 December 2018 in Tbilisi. More information about the Conference can be found at <http://eap-csf.eu/eastern-partnership-youth-conference-2018-youth-for-entrepreneurship/>

### International Youth Conference

On 11-13 October 2018, the EaP CSF WG4 members, namely Alexandra Kalatozishvili, WG4 Coordinator and Co-Chair of the EaP CSF Steering Committee, Mariia Symonova, MITLA Agency of Changes (Ukraine) and Ana Indoitu, National Youth Council of Moldova (Moldova) took part in the *International Youth Conference “Youth Inclusion and Youth Participation in Eastern Partnership region: Bridging experiences in the Eastern Partnership countries and the EU”* organized in Tbilisi, Georgia within the framework of EU-funded “Everyone Matters! Development of Inclusive and Participatory Youth Work Practices in Eastern Partnership countries” project. The Conference was organized by the EaP CSF member organization - Armenian Progressive Youth NGO (Armenia) in cooperation with partners from the EaP and the EU countries.

This multi-stakeholder cross-sectoral conference intended to provide a platform for local and international stakeholders, professionals, youth workers and young people to share and discuss issues of youth participation and youth inclusion. The Conference particularly aimed to: Create a space of exchange and dialogue on youth inclusion and participation of marginalized youth between different stakeholders, such as authorities on local and national level, youth policy responsables, policy makers, experts, NGO representatives, young people and youth workers; Compare the existing situations of Youth participation in the EU and the Eastern Partnership countries, share research from different national contexts and offer a comparative perspective; Showcase best practices, support structures that develop methods and strategies that specifically encourage participation of marginalized and vulnerable youth; Develop recommendations on Youth Inclusion and Youth Participation addressing local and national authorities responsible for youth, national governments and the EU.

EaP CSF WG4 Coordinator and group members have participated in the official opening ceremony as well as in the panel on the “State of Youth Inclusion and Participation in EaP countries and the EU”.

### WG 4 ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES IN 2018

Coordinators and members of WG4 have taken part in various events on national and European level, including panels, thematic workshops, high-level events, consultations as well as individual meetings with various stakeholders. Apart from already mentioned events,

this includes but is not limited to the following occasions which may be considered as advocacy opportunity utilized by WG4 Coordinator in 2018:

- Launch of the renewed EaP architecture (Brussels, 12 March, 2018)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the EU-Georgia Civil Society Platform (Tbilisi, 22 March, 2018)
- German Marshall Seminar on the Frontier of Democracy (Kyiv, 20-22 April, 2018)
- Meeting of the GNP leadership and the EaP CSF SC Co-Chair with Carlo Natale, Deputy Head of the EU Delegation to Georgia and Dorota Dlouchy-Suliga, Head of Political, Press and Information Section (Tbilisi, 3 May, 2018)
- VII Ordinary Session of the Euronest PA (Brussels, 27 June, 2018)
- Meeting of the EU-Georgia Civil Society Platform members with Tamar Khulordava, Chairperson of the Georgian Parliamentary Committee on European Integration (Tbilisi, July 9, 2018)
- Meeting with NDI pre-election high-level delegation (Tbilisi, 23 July, 2018)
- Meeting with the Rapporteur of the Foreign Relations Committee of the European Parliament on the implementation of the EU-Georgia Association Agreement (Tbilisi, 23 July, 2018)
- Meeting of the GNP leadership and the EaP CSF SC Co-Chair with Davit Zalkaliani, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Georgia (Tbilisi, August 16, 2018)
- Consultation workshop with civil society to revise and update the Country Roadmaps for EU engagement with Civil Society for 2018-2020 (Tbilisi, 11-12 October, 2018)
- Working meeting on the development of a Road Map “Georgia to EU” (Tbilisi, May 15 and October 12, 2018)
- Individual meeting with Rosaria Puglisi, Head of the NATO Liaison Office in Tbilisi
- Meeting with NDI short-term elections monitoring mission (Tbilisi, 24 October, 2018)
- Meeting of the GNP leadership and the EaP CSF SC Co-Chair with Carl Hartzell, Ambassador of the EU to Georgia (Tbilisi, 2 November, 2018)

## GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE WG:

WG4 Coordinators and members at every occasion undertake efforts to promote group activity as well as ensure visibility of the EaP CSF in general. This includes utilization of various means including but not limited to verbal notes during the presentations at the events organized or attended by WG4 Coordinators and group members, social media tools (Facebook, Instagram, etc), traditional media, etc. EaP Youth Conference represents the most recent example of efforts made to attract new members, since the event was open to any individuals/organizations interested in the topic of social entrepreneurship by young people. Hence, the event gathered together many new faces who may be potentially attracted to the work of the EaP CSF in future.

Apart from this, WG4 Coordinator has undertaken particular efforts to promote GNP and EaP CSF activity in Georgia, especially in the regions and among ethnic minority population of the country. Significant efforts were made to attract regional CSOs to the work of the GNP. Eventually, one of the GNP regional branches was opened in Armenian minority populated

city Ninotsminda of Samtskhe-Javakheti region of Georgia. It is worth noting that such approach significantly contributes not only to the publicity of the EaP CSF/WG4, but also to the wider promotion of extremely important topics as addressed by our activity.



## RE-GRANTING PROJECTS OF THE WG4 MEMBERS

- Creative EaP (*Centre for Cultural Management (CCM), Ukraine*)
- Youth for Entrepreneurship in Rural Areas ("*Free Citizen*" *Civic Initiatives Support Center NGO, Armenia*)
- Youth Economic Empowerment through Social Entrepreneurship (*Youth Cooperation Center of Dilijan NGO, Armenia*)

Apart from that, WG4 members cooperate within the framework of other projects supported by various donors as well as participate in the events organized by member-organizations on national and international level.

## POSITIVE MENTIONS OF THE WG, THE FORUM AND ITS ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE MEDIA

Activity of the WG4 was promoted by its members via traditional and social media. Information about our activity (mostly announcements of the EaP Youth Conference and the EaP CSF re-granting scheme for 2019) can be found at:

[https://www.facebook.com/EurasiaSocialChange/?modal=admin\\_todo\\_tour&notif\\_id=1542110216930734&notif\\_t=page\\_invite](https://www.facebook.com/EurasiaSocialChange/?modal=admin_todo_tour&notif_id=1542110216930734&notif_t=page_invite)

<http://georgiatoday.ge/news/11415/Youth-For-Entrepreneurship>

<https://www.euneighbours.eu/en/east/stay-informed/news/eastern-partnership-youth-conference-2018-youth-entrepreneurship>

<https://www.eu2018.at/calendar-events/political-events/BMEIA-2018-11-08-EaP-Youth-Conference.html>

<http://eapcivilsociety.eu/news/civil-society-news/eastern-partnership-youth-conference-2018-youth-for-entrepreneurship-apply-before-17-august-2018.html>



<http://www.opportunitydesk.org/2018/08/04/eastern-partnership-youth-conference-2018/>

[https://www.eumonitor.eu/9353000/1/j9vvik7m1c3gyxp/vkoeie3pybox?ctx=vi4vbw1tpls3&start\\_tab0=20](https://www.eumonitor.eu/9353000/1/j9vvik7m1c3gyxp/vkoeie3pybox?ctx=vi4vbw1tpls3&start_tab0=20)

<https://www.opportunitydiary.com/the-eus-eastern-partnership-civil-society-forum-youth-for-entrepreneurship-conference-2018-for-young-entrepreneurs/>

<http://www.blackseango.org/call-for-participants-eastern-partnership-youth-conference-youth-for-entrepreneurship-8-9-november-2018-vienna-austria/>

<https://cor.europa.eu/en/our-work/Documents/CORLEAP/eNewsletter-September-2018.pdf>

[https://www.montesquieu-institute.eu/id/vkoeie3pybox/agenda/eastern\\_partnership\\_youth\\_conference?v=1&ctx=vg9pktppo1xz&tab=1](https://www.montesquieu-institute.eu/id/vkoeie3pybox/agenda/eastern_partnership_youth_conference?v=1&ctx=vg9pktppo1xz&tab=1)

<https://www2.fundsforngos.org/youth-and-adolescents/applications-open-for-eastern-partnership-youth-conference-youth-for-entrepreneurship/>

<http://mybusiness.md/ro/comunicate-de-pres/item/8495-eastern-partnership-youth-conference-2018-youth-for-entrepreneurship-vena-avstriya-8-9-noyabrya-2018>

[https://www.europa-nu.nl/id/vkoeie3pybox/agenda/eastern\\_partnership\\_youth\\_conference?ctx=vi4vbw1tpls3&tab=1](https://www.europa-nu.nl/id/vkoeie3pybox/agenda/eastern_partnership_youth_conference?ctx=vi4vbw1tpls3&tab=1)

## EVALUATION OF WG ACTIVITIES IN 2018

The activity conducted by the WG4 and its members in 2018 is in line with its work plan. Hence, WG4 activity can be evaluated positively that is proved by the presence of the following factors:

- a) Effective participation of WG4 members in the respective panels and thematic events;
- b) Successful conduct of the Youth Conference “Youth for Entrepreneurship” in Vienna which is the result of joint efforts of WG4 members and the EaP CSF Secretariat as well as financial support provided by DG NEAR, Austrian Presidency of the Council of European Union, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung Regional office “Dialogue Eastern Europe” and Salto-Youth Eastern Europe and Caucasus Centre;
- c) Established/strengthened synergies and cooperation with key stakeholders working in the EaP region such as DG NEAR, SALTO-Youth Eastern Europe and Caucasus Center, FES Regional Office “Dialogue Eastern Europe”, etc.;
- d) Implemented 3 re-granting projects by WG4 members, out of which 2 represented complementary activity to the Youth Conference.
- e) Established/developed cooperation among WG4 members which is not limited to re-granting projects or the EaP CSF organized events, but is extended to other formats, including realization of joint projects supported by various donors, participation in the activities organized by individual members of WG4, etc.;

The key obstacle which hampered activity of the EaP CSF in 2018 in general was the delayed signing of a new grant contract. This entailed the postponing of annual WG meetings some of which were consequently held in the second half of the year.