



Structured consultation on the Eastern Partnership beyond 2020

CIVIL SOCIETY PERSPECTIVE

Country Report: Ukraine

This report offers the perspectives of Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum member organisations from Ukraine on the future of the Eastern Partnership following its tenth anniversary year. It is one of a series of six country reports, with other editions covering Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova.

The findings presented here are the result of a comprehensive process of internal consultation, conducted in October 2019 in order to inform the EaP CSF's response to DG NEAR's structured consultation on the Eastern Partnership beyond 2020.

The official DG NEAR consultation addressed the fields of 'Economic and Human Capital Development', 'Good Governance, Rule of Law, Security Cooperation', 'Development of Bilateral and Multilateral Partnership with the EU and among EaP Countries', 'Improving Strategic Communication and Visibility', and 'Other Areas'. For the purposes of its own internal consultation, the EaP CSF chose to organise these fields into the following themes:

1. Economic and Human Capital Development
2. Good Governance, Rule of Law, Security Cooperation
3. EU-EaP and Intra-EaP Cooperation: Ensuring Inclusiveness and Differentiation
4. Boosting EU Visibility in the EaP Region
5. Strengthening the Role of Civil Society

Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum Structured Consultation on Eastern Partnership

The civil society perspective: Country Report **Ukraine**

SUMMARY

The EaP CSF prepared its response to DG NEAR's structured consultation on the future of the Eastern Partnership by launching a comprehensive process of internal consultation of its membership base. The internal consultation was based on three pillars: six in-country focus groups, four online focus groups and one online questionnaire combining qualitative and quantitative elements. Over 200 civil society organisations participated in at least one pillar of the consultation. The results presented below offer a **detailed overview of the input received from Ukraine**. A total of 42 Ukrainian civil society organisations participated in the consultation process (one or more pillars): 31 organisations took part in the online survey, eight took part in the in-country focus group and three in the online focus groups. The report also reflects the document '*Position of the EaP CSF Ukrainian National Platform on the future of the Eastern Partnership in the context of the EU's structured consultations*'.

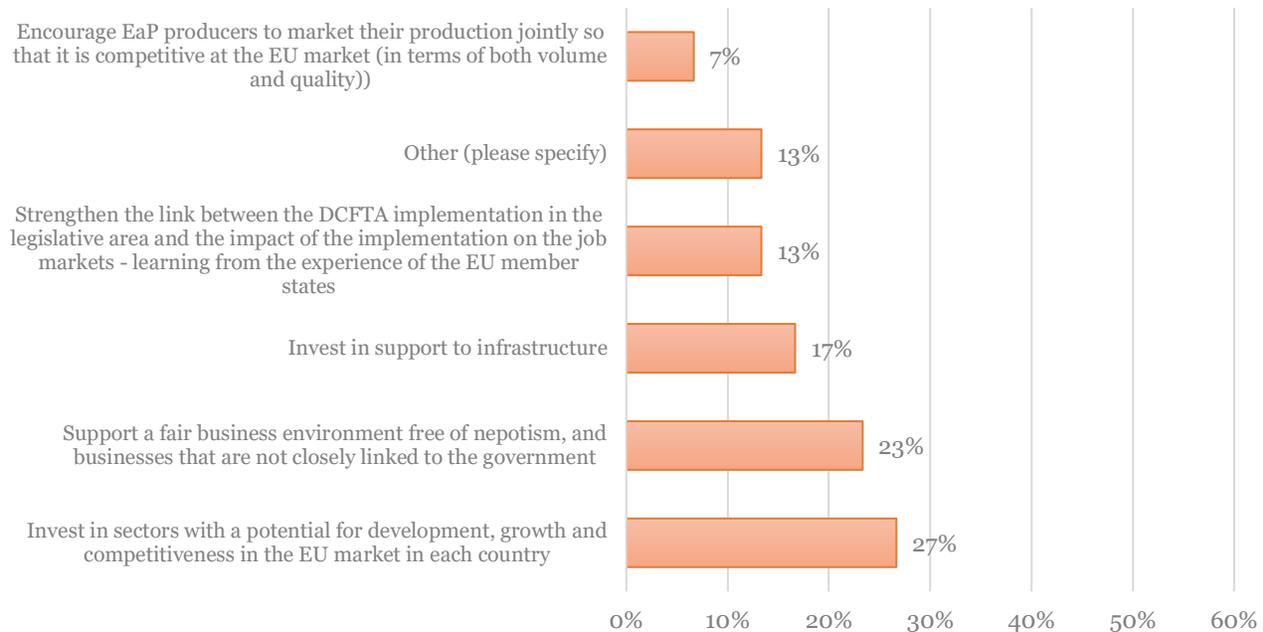
1. ECONOMIC AND HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT

The results of the online survey of Ukrainian organisations suggest that the most urgent and effective measure through which the EU should support **sustainable economic development** in the EaP region is to **invest in sectors with potential for development, growth and competitiveness in the EU single market in each EaP country (27%)**. Maximum prioritisation of such investments also stands out from the in-country focus group results, which state that support to Ukraine's economy should be smart-targeted on sectors with competitiveness potential but also on innovative products and high added-value industries and sectors. Such support should be linked to funding channelled to research and innovation. **23% of respondents also opted for the support of a fair business environment free of nepotism as the most urgent measure**. The EU should continue offer incentives supporting policies aiming at promoting a fair business environment and levelling the field for regular competition.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

In your opinion, what would be the most urgent and effective measure that the EU should promote to support sustainable economic development in the EaP region?
(you can choose only one)



Recommendations

Supporting sectors with a potential for development, growth and competitiveness in the EU single market

- Support industry – namely metallurgy, and the coal and petrochemical industries.
- Support the digital economy with a focus on innovations via start-up funds and research programmes such as HORIZON 2020.
- Support agriculture and introduce cluster technologies, especially within development policies for rural areas.
- Support the energy sector with a focus on modernisation of infrastructure (interconnectors) as well as renewable energy and energy efficient measures. Support the introduction of metering of energy consumption for citizens and create a special fund for supporting this activity within existing energy-efficiency programmes. Support the creation of an open database of energy consumers.
- Tailor sectoral support to the “greening” of the economy; green economy principles should apply namely to services and tourism, and to infrastructure investments.



- Maintain support for SMEs, especially at the local level, with a focus on tourism and crafts. Support public-private partnerships and innovative projects and ideas within local communities in order to preserve historical and cultural heritage at the regional and local level.
- Couple improvements to customs procedures with the development of infrastructure, better connecting Ukraine with EU customers; support the opening of new border crossing points (there are only eight road crossing points on the Polish-Ukrainian border while there were 37 between Poland and Germany before Poland joined the EU). Promote the signing and implementation of bilateral agreements on joint border controls between Ukraine and neighbouring EU member states, in compliance with the Schengen acquis. Support joint exercises, and the operative exchange of information and databases between the border guard services of Ukraine and its EU neighbours.

AA/DCFTA Implementation

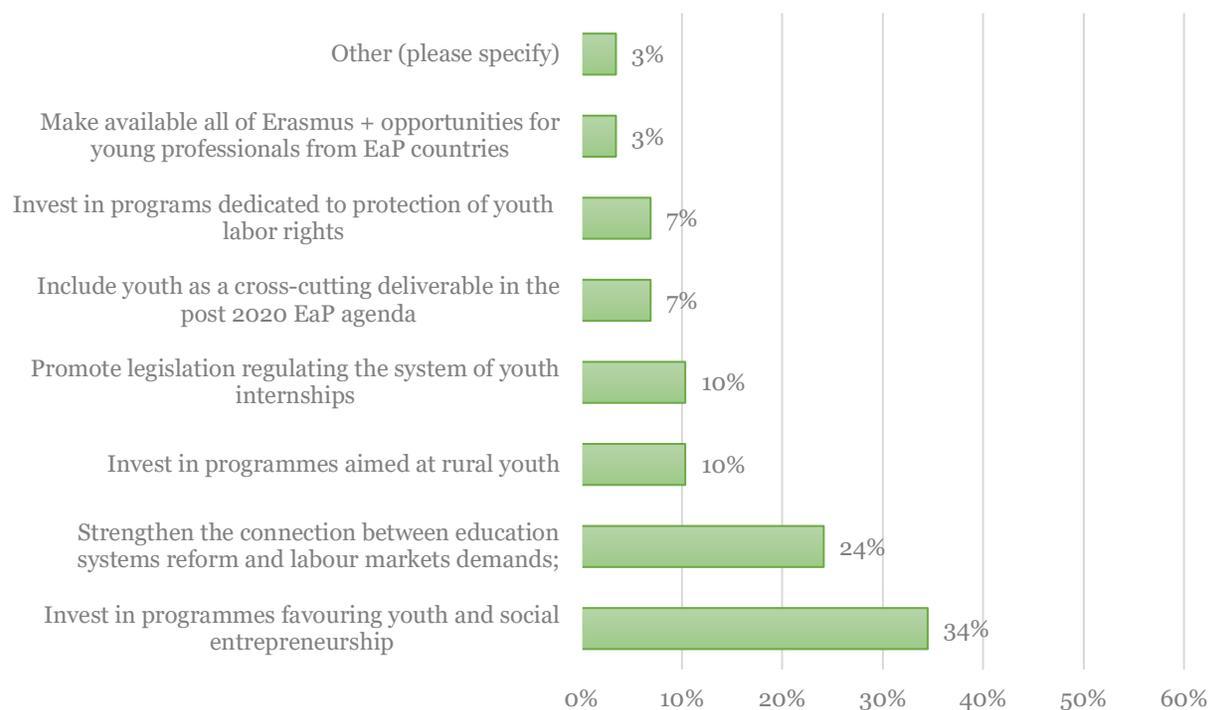
- Improve independent monitoring of AA/DCFTA implementation (including common monitoring of projects undertaken by EaP governments) by introducing detailed and time-bound recommendations for priority actions for the next specific time period.
- Pay more attention to the production and collection of correct data in various sectors by the Ukrainian government; introduce training programmes for civil servants on how to operate with statistics and how to publish proper monitoring reports as a short-term goal. The work of the EaP Working Group on Statistics under EaP Platform 2 could be enhanced and provide the basis for developing tailored training for the EaP countries.
- Prioritise the full liberalisation of EU trade with the three AA/DCFTA countries by eliminating all customs duties and tariff quotas; facilitate the signing of the ACAA agreement (Agreement on Conformity Assessment and Acceptance of Industrial Products); open the EU single market to all types of Ukrainian agricultural goods.
- Open those sectors of the EU single market for which the transposition and implementation of the EU acquis – including the common transit system NCTS and recognition of the authorised economic operators – is finalised. Open the EU market to telecommunications, post and courier services, financial services, aviation, and all other transport services, including in the road, rail, maritime, and inland waterway sectors. Full reciprocal opening of the public procurement markets should be also implemented.
- Apply EU law to the gas and electricity markets of the three AA/DCFTA countries in the same way as in EU member states.
- Support better monitoring of compliance with the EU acquis in order to ensure that rules and standards – namely consumer rights, labour rights, environmental protection, intellectual property rights, state aid and competition rules – are in line with EU standards. To do this, regular sectoral compliance reports (like ‘fitness checks’ for the EU MS) should be introduced.
- Focus on antidiscrimination in the labour market and employment policies, namely regarding gender; by tackling discrimination and the pay gap, the benefits of AA/DCFTA implementation would have an immediate effect on a larger number of citizens.



Some 34% of respondents of the online survey of Ukrainian organisations suggest the most urgent and effective measure the EU should support in order to **empower youth** further and address the economic challenges young people are facing, is to invest in programmes favouring youth and social entrepreneurship. Strengthening the **connection between education systems reform and labour market demands** should be the second priority (24%).

HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT

In your opinion, what would be the most urgent and effective measure that the EU should promote to further empower youth and address the economic challenges they are facing? (you can choose only one)



Recommendations

Youth

- Expand support to youth and social entrepreneurship; fund start-ups of young entrepreneurs and entrepreneurial distance-learning, and pitch the best business ideas to an expert group. Social responsibility should be a major element and precondition of entrepreneurial support targeting youth. Fund youth research centres and laboratories through Horizon 2020, and link them with youth entrepreneurs. Support aspiring young women entrepreneurs.



Education

- Focus on schoolchildren in order to integrate them as early as possible into EU scientific and exchange programmes and provide them with professional orientation.
- Enhance funding for student exchange programmes and double-degree studies through Erasmus+.
- Support more quality vocational education and training; vocational education often lacks prestige in Ukraine, despite the high demand for related jobs. Support an information campaign to raise awareness about the career opportunities stemming from vocational training and the likely remuneration scales. Use the experiences of EU countries to promote successful examples of reforming the vocational education system. Invest in new equipment and technology for vocational schools and support the designing of new curricula, too.

Labour market

- Support regional employment centres to stimulate employers to provide jobs to young professionals, including the possibility of refinancing the first workplace.
- Focus on the participation of women in the labour force by supporting female internships and training programs.
- Support more experience-sharing between the EU and Ukraine on how trade unions should operate, namely how they can contribute to motivating employees and consequently to economic prosperity. The following EU directives, which are not part of the body of legislation to be transposed under AA/DCFTA, should be implemented: Directive 2002/14/EC, establishing a general framework for informing and consulting employees, and Directive 94/45/EC, on the establishment of a European Works Council or a procedure in Community-scale undertakings and Community-scale groups of undertakings for the purposes of informing and consulting employees.

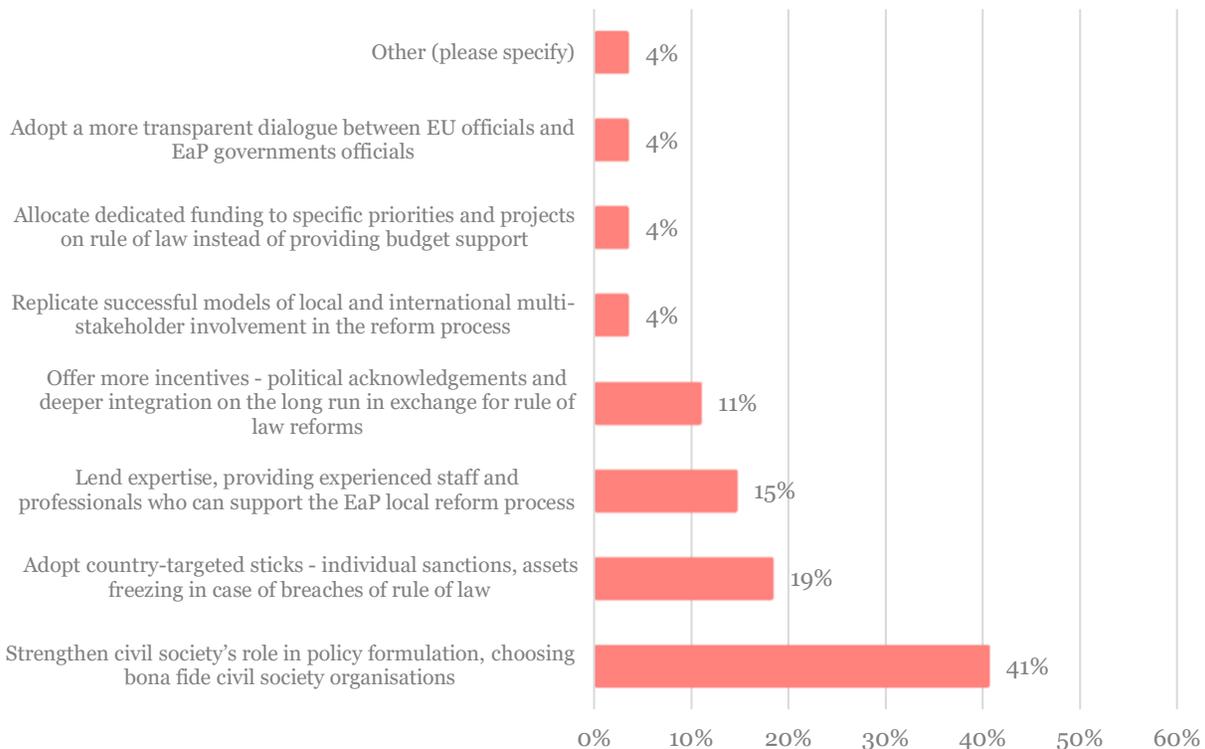
2. GOOD GOVERNANCE, RULE OF LAW, SECURITY COOPERATION

In order to support good governance and rule of law reforms in the EaP countries, **a plurality of respondents in Ukraine (41%) suggest the EU should focus on strengthening the role of civil society in policy formulation, choosing bona fide organisations.** According to the survey, the EU should namely support the active involvement of civil society as a third equal partner in designing and monitoring rule of law reforms. The second most supported measure (19%) is to **adopt country-targeted “sticks” in the form of individual sanctions and assets freezing in case of proven breaches of the rule of law.**



RULE OF LAW & GOOD GOVERNANCE

In your opinion, what would be the most urgent and effective measure that the EU could promote to support good governance and rule of law reform in the EaP? (you can choose only one)



Recommendations

Rule of law

- Support the strengthening of civil society's role in policy formulation; for that purpose, civil society should be involved in developing clear, country-tailored Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for rule of law that would also make the provision of EU assistance conditional.
- Support specialised parliamentary committees (legal, anti-corruption, law enforcement) in building their expertise in order to improve oversight and the accountability of the government.
- Improve reports on the state of the rule of law in Ukraine; the current reports are too general and lack specific benchmarks. Develop similar tools to the existing ones applied to EU member states and candidate countries, like the EU Anti-Corruption Report or the EU Justice Scoreboard – for example a rule of law scorecard. Such a screening mechanism would measure the success, identify gaps, and add significant value to guiding reforms, especially in those areas where strong European standards are lacking from the vaguely drafted political part of AA/DCFTA.



- Use EU experts who take into account the national peculiarities and who have already worked in Ukraine to support rule of law reforms. In order to preserve institutional memory, the EU should support setting up networks of experts in various fields of rule of law reform.
- Support the involvement of civil society in the implementation of judiciary reform, including, for example, participation in special control and disciplinary commissions for judges. Do not shy away from increasing pressure on the government in case the reform of the judiciary slows down.
- Promote the increased transparency of the judicial system and support access to justice for citizens.
- Pressure the government to avoid the "good law, but it does not work" effect, by emphasising the need to adopt by-laws that are necessary to guide the implementation in practice of the major part of legislation adopted under AA/DCFTA. This applies namely to anti-discrimination legislation that is adopted but not internalised and implemented.

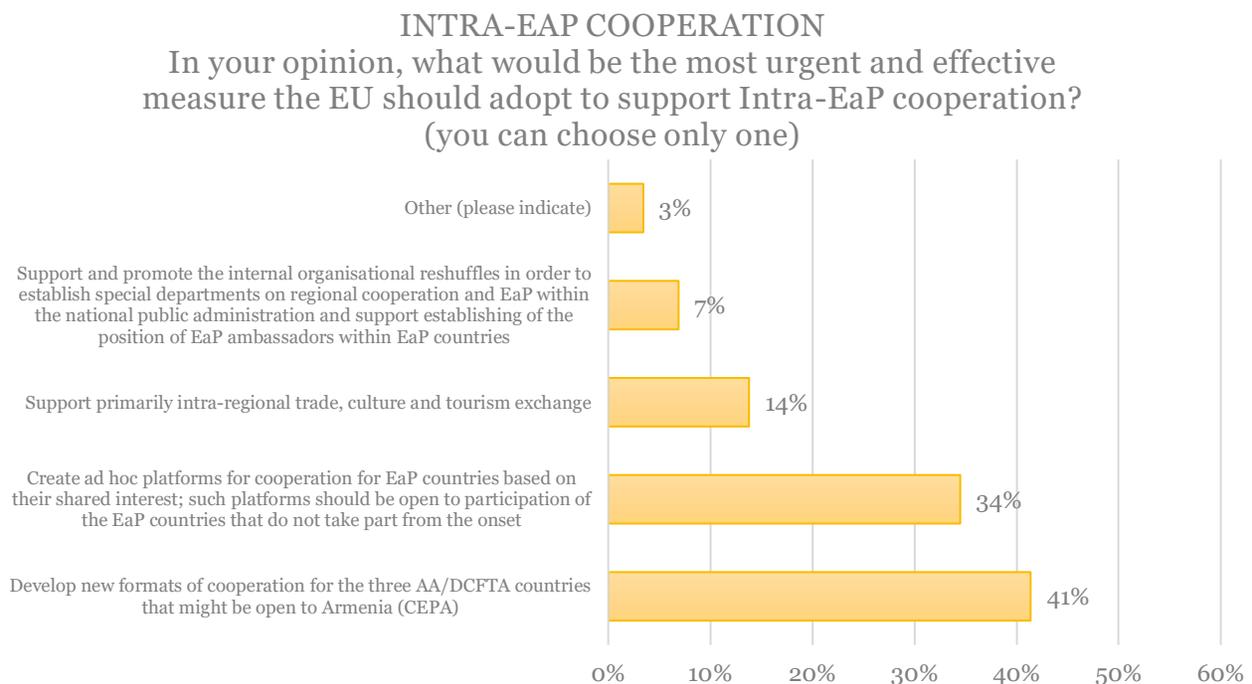
Security

- Maintain a principled approach towards Russia, including by prolonging and strengthening sanctions for the illegal annexation of Crimea and military actions in eastern Ukraine.
- Provide for the effective implementation of sanctions, and close the gaps and possibilities for EU entities and companies to avoid them; establish cooperation between the law enforcement agencies of EU member states and Ukraine.
- Provide funding to help create technical infrastructure to strengthen Ukraine's cyber resilience, in line with the new national security strategy.
- Support cooperation with neighbouring EU member states – namely Romania and Poland – especially on data sharing, in order to assist Ukraine in repelling cyber-attacks.
- Support the establishment of a cybersecurity coordination working system for all EaP countries and involve all relevant national actors, including civil society. Regular fora on cybersecurity can be organised in order to facilitate the exchange of information within the EaP region.
- Increase the resilience of society to cybersecurity threats in collaboration with civil society through the implementation of joint initiatives within the Digital Transformation Coalition.
- Increase investment in the development of digital skills and media literacy; supporting media literacy is only part of the process, because it works with the consequences of information threats that have already occurred and many "threats" are media-constructed. Support and invest in the research to cyber threats in order to uncover and recognise the patterns in which these threats are formed, including gender-bias or other societal paradigms.



3. EU-EAP AND INTRA-EAP COOPERATION: ENSURING INCLUSIVENESS AND DIFFERENTIATION

According to 41% of respondents to the survey, inclusiveness and differentiation in EaP relations with the EU should be pursued through developing a **distinctive track for cooperation for the three AA/DCFTA countries** with the EU (possibly open to Armenia), as the existing format of the EaP has been slowing down the integration process of the AA/DCFTA countries. The second most chosen option was to **establish ad hoc platforms for cooperation for EaP countries** based on their shared interests and open participation in such platforms to any EaP country (34.48%). At the same time, according to experts who took part in the focus group, the **top priority for Ukraine is to develop relations with the EU further under the bilateral track**, as well as opening the EU membership perspective for Ukraine but also for the other two AA/DCFTA partners.



Recommendations

Boosting intra-EaP cooperation

- Update the provision included in the Joint Declaration of the 2017 EaP Summit – ‘to engage the AA/DCFTA partners in joint discussions on the progress, opportunities and challenges concerning the association-related reforms with the aim of facilitating full implementation of the AA/DCFTAs’ – by establishing a dedicated institutional framework for such cooperation to take place among the three associated partners themselves and the EU at the governmental, parliamentary and civil society levels, in parallel to and without jeopardising the existing EaP structure.



- Establish ad hoc platforms for cooperation for EaP countries based on their shared interests and open such platforms to the participation of any EaP country.
- Advise EaP countries to establish the position of EaP ambassador within their governments. EaP ambassadors would be entrusted with developing cooperation with their EaP counterparts, facilitating trade and cross-border projects and raising the profile of the policy within EaP countries.
- Facilitate regionalisation, creating a Baltic Council or Visegrád 4-like platform for EaP countries. This should be driven and implemented by EaP countries and led by Ukraine, in a similar way to the GUAM Organisation for Democracy and Economic Development. The role of such a regional organisation could be to establish a joint monitoring mechanism of reforms and AA approximation and to advocate the deepening of sectoral integration.

Supporting regionalisation in selected areas

- Boost regionalisation in the areas of transport, security, customs, adoption and mutual recognition of common security standards for food products and industrial goods (through ISO standards), and the environment. The environment is an area in which increased regional cooperation is particularly needed, mainly to achieve the full implementation of horizontal environmental directives, integrated water resources management, and reduced emissions of pollutants and greenhouse gases into the atmosphere.
- Support strengthened intra-EaP cooperation towards the settlement of protracted conflicts, as all but one EaP countries have active or protracted conflicts on their territories.
- Increase interconnectivity between the three AA countries and the EU, namely via the practical integration of the three countries' infrastructure into the TEN-T transport network, with adequate EU financial support. The establishment of an EaP business network could help in this respect.
- Support the regional sharing of best practices among governments in the area of development and implementation of labour and trade union legislation. Contrary to government reports, the implementation of legislation regulating the rights of workers has not been successful, and civil society as well as trade unions are calling for more regional cooperation to discuss successful practices.
- Support the design and implementation of good labour legislation, which is key for several sectors of the economy, especially the coal, energy, and petrochemical industries, and the public sector. Improved labour legislation would be a powerful, visible benefit for Ukrainian citizens of the integration process, if communicated and marketed correctly.

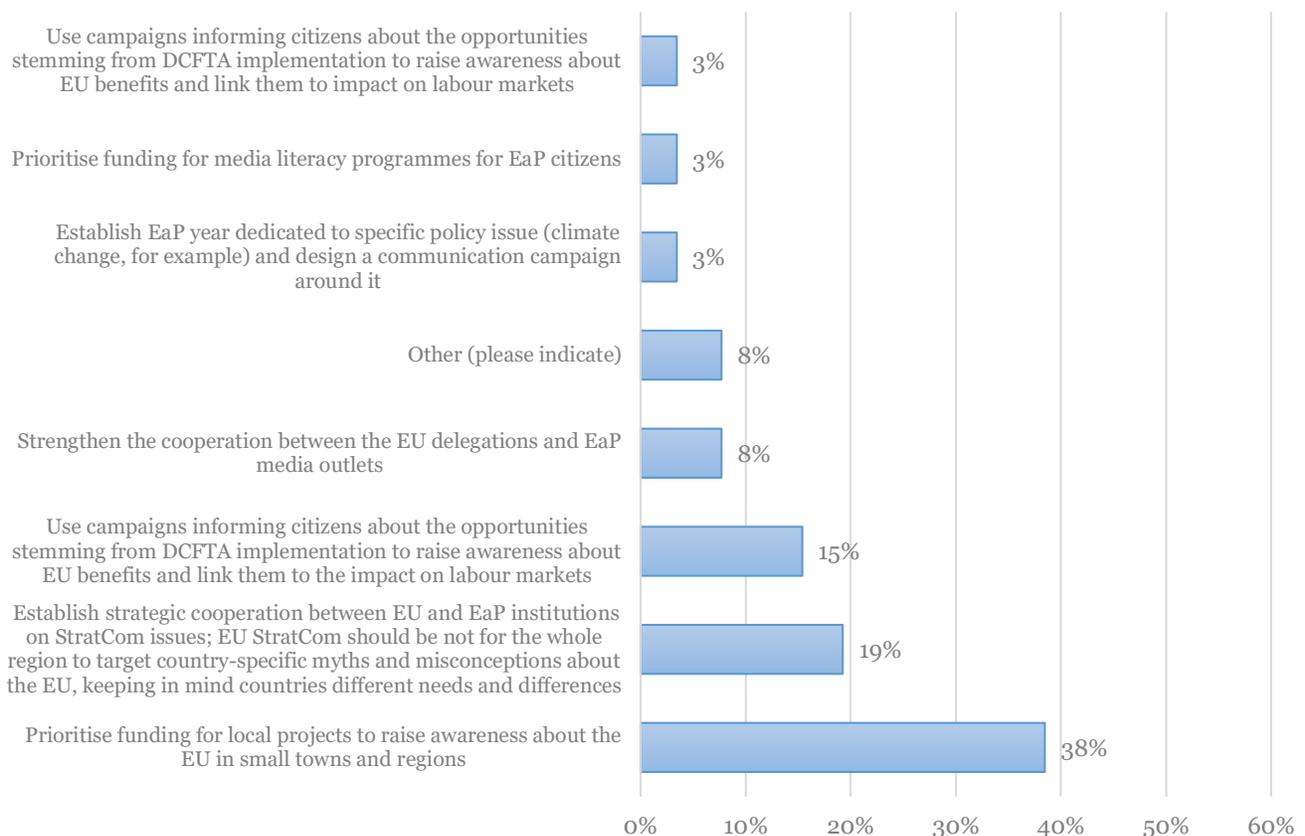


4. BOOSTING EU VISIBILITY IN THE EAP REGION

The results of the online survey of Ukrainian organisations suggest the most urgent and effective measure that the EU should support to enhance its visibility in the EaP region is **prioritising funding for local projects raising awareness about the EU in small towns and regions and going beyond EU-minded cohorts** (chosen by 38% of Ukrainian respondents). This is followed by establishing strategic cooperation between the EU and EaP institutions and StratCom issues (19%), and using campaigns to informing citizens about the opportunities stemming from DCFTA implementation to raise awareness about their positive impact on the labour market (15%).

EU VISIBILITY IN THE EAP

In your opinion, what would be the most urgent and effective measure to enhance the visibility of the EU in the EaP region? (you can choose only one)



Recommendations

Increasing EU visibility

- Prioritise funding for local projects raising awareness about the EU in small towns and regions. Capitals and large cities host plenty of informational activities and events, while at the local level there is lack of information about EaP opportunities and priorities.
- Expand EU programmes' target groups beyond EU-minded cohorts. Existing visibility initiatives address mainly English-speaking, EU-minded groups and are disproportionately aimed at university-educated youth.
- Fund programmes addressing high school youth in cities and in the regions, possibly through school visits by former and current EU Young Ambassadors and Eastern Partnership Civil Society fellows, in cooperation with civil society organisations.
- Advocate for the introduction of special classes dedicated to civic education including the EU and European values in high schools.
- Build campaigns informing citizens about the opportunities stemming from DCFTA implementation, linking them to the positive impact on the labour market. Farmers and owners of SMEs who benefit from DCFTA implementation should be the primary targets but also potential messengers. All consumers who benefit from improved phytosanitary standards could be targeted with specific campaigns on health and food safety benefits. The Centres for Farmers created under the Association Agreements could adopt best practices from the example of the Danish Agricultural Advisory Service – a recognised best practice in this area – to make the EU more visible.
- Plan EU communication campaigns in cooperation with public relations and social media professionals, making them more interactive; the volume of financial support channelled by the EU towards Ukraine is not as visible as it should be and it should be advertised more broadly, targeting not only the potential beneficiaries but also reaching out to population at large.
- Adopt a youth-tailored approach when addressing young people, engaging them in the places where they already gather, using a language they speak and emulating models they follow.

Working with media

- Work strategically with domestic media to increase the EU's public footprint, and increase the visibility of EU officials in the country.
- Support crash courses for journalists on how to write about the EU without mistakes. Journalists' poor knowledge about the EU and poor reporting is one of the causes of substandard communication about the EU and its policies, and should be addressed by improving the quality of reporting.

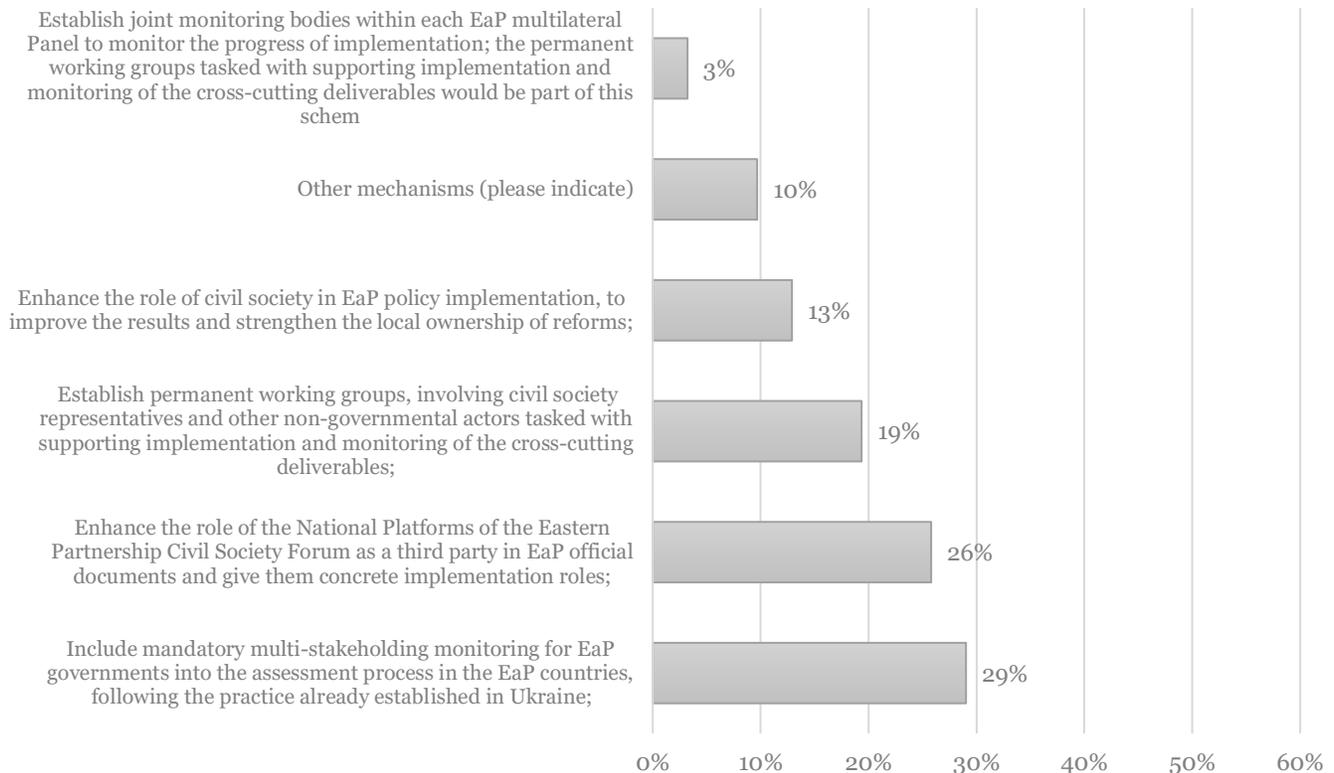


5. STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF CIVIL SOCIETY

While the majority of respondents from all EaP countries indicated enhancing the role of CSOs in policy implementation as the most urgent and effective measure to increase civil society's involvement in the EaP policy, Ukrainian respondents pointed to the following three as the most effective measures: (1) to include **mandatory multi-stake-holding monitoring** for EaP governments in the assessment process in EaP countries, following the practice already established in Ukraine; (2) to **enhance the role of the National Platforms of the EaP CSF** as a third party in official EaP documents and give them concrete implementation roles; and (3) to establish permanent working groups involving civil society representatives and other non-governmental actors, tasked with **supporting the implementation** and monitoring of the cross-cutting deliverables. These working groups would effectively transfer needs-based knowledge and expertise at short notice, and feed the information directly into the regular assessments of policy implementation, run by EU institutions and EaP governments.

STRENGTHENING CIVIL SOCIETY

In your opinion, what would be the most urgent and effective measure to increase civil society's involvement in the EaP policy? (you can choose only one)



Recommendations

Strengthening State institutional capacity

- Encourage the creation of special bodies (directorates and policy departments) within Ukrainian ministries and support their institutional capacity while simultaneously providing support to CSOs as monitoring and policy-making actors that sometimes substitute for state bodies. This should be prioritised for sectors in which there is lack of expertise on the side of both the government and NGOs, such as social and labour commitments on gender equality and non-discrimination. At present, in Ukraine, civil society provides expertise and policy recommendations to the government, yet the current weakness of state institutions has created a situation in which civil society organisations actually execute some of the government's functions. Some experts believe that civil society should not take such a role and should not share equal responsibility with the government.

Strengthen and improve the monitoring role of CSOs

- Introduce a peer-review procedure including both Ukrainian and EU experts for the results of public monitoring and government reports.
- Open Supervisory and Expert Boards for EU projects funded in Ukraine in order to prevent non-professionals NGOs and representatives from Government-Organised Non-Governmental Organisations (GONGOs) from participating in monitoring activities.
- In parallel, support CSOs in their effort to widen the space for government consultation with the public and bona fide civil society organisations on policies formulated by the government.

Improving Social Dialogue

- Ensure that the Ukrainian government implements Chapter 21 (Cooperation on employment, social policy and equal opportunities) of the Association Agreement (articles 419, 420 and 421), which involves changing approaches to the interaction of trade unions, employers, civil society organisations and the state in solving the socio-economic problems of the country.
- Support better communication and education on social dialogue through financing education projects in this field at the regional and local levels, including both schools and universities and involve trading unions that are not necessarily affiliated to the ITUC and/or the ETUC in the implementation of projects and trainings.

Professionalisation of civil society

- Support programmes aimed at the further professionalisation of civil society. Civil society is the main engine of pro-European reforms but needs to strengthen its role in policy-making and become more professional; a comprehensive EU support program for this



- purpose should be designed. EU CSOs can assist in reaching the goals of the programme.
- Support the strengthening of CSOs' internal management capacity – for example, adopting codes of ethical conduct that prevent conflicts of interest and favour openness – and their ability to develop high quality research output and connect with grassroots activities.
 - Ensure a more open and transparent management of umbrella projects like Civic Synergy that support the activities of pro-European NGO platforms. The overall EU funding for civil society has been more or less sufficient, with the problem lying more in how (in)effectively those resources are sometimes spent.
 - Carry out an audit of available resources with the purpose of redistributing them according to requests and priorities provided by civil society and the new government, with some funding earmarked for ad hoc projects. This is important due to the current speed of legislative activity in the new parliament.



ANNEX – SUMMARY OF METHODOLOGICAL APPROACH

The Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum’s contribution to DG NEAR’s Structured Consultation is a synthesis of a comprehensive process of internal consultation of the Forum’s membership base. The consultation was based on a methodology especially conceived to distill recommendations that would: (i) have a regional dimension while preserving country specificities; (ii) give a clear sense of prioritisation; (iii) be the result of a debate among civil society experts with complementary expertise on cross-sectoral areas; and (iv) ensure a high number of contributions to ensure the recommendations’ legitimacy, as well as country and expertise balance.

Within the elaborated methodology, three different but complementary mechanisms were used to gather the collective input of EaP CSF member CSOs from the six EaP countries and the EU:

- *six national in-person focus groups*, to debate and formulate recommendations featuring each EaP country’s national perspective on EaP and national priorities;
- *four online focus groups*, to formulate regional, thematic recommendations featuring experts with different profiles, but the same areas of specialism, from the EaP countries and the EU
- *one online survey*, intended as the most inclusive segment of the consultation, adding a quantitative element to the methodology that enabled the prioritisation of policy recommendations.

All three segments were conducted in October 2019 and involved over 200 experts.

The input from the segments was used to put together a synthesis report based on major common patterns that emerged across the focus groups and the online survey. The results of the survey and focus groups were also segmented by country and further distilled into dedicated country reports.

National in–person’ focus groups

The national focus groups were designed to capture in-country perspectives and country-specific recommendations. Six focus groups were conducted in October 2019 – one in each of the EaP states – with a total of 68 participants. Each discussion lasted for about four hours and was aimed at gathering the input of a group of EaP CSF member organisations, with balanced yet diverse expertise, on a set of questions formulated around the structure of DG NEAR’s Structured Consultation – i.e. four clusters of questions built around one scenario each. Each focus group followed the same protocol, built around four scenarios and containing a set of mandatory and optional questions that national FG facilitators could select from. Questions were formulated for national-level discussions to allow the aggregation of a balanced set of recommendations for the EU based on:

- Identifying current policy practices, actions and deliverables that the EU should retain in its post-2020 policy framework and ineffective or counter-productive practices which should be discontinued;
- Identifying new policy practices, actions and deliverables the EU could initiate;
- Testing policy ideas and actions already identified by the EaP CSF in previous rounds of internal consultations, or proposed as part of its existing written output (c.f. “Advancing Eastern Partnership: 23 Civil society ideas for the policy beyond 2020” policy paper);



- Identifying processes and policies that the EaP CSF should advocate further;
- Identifying umbrella recommendations as well as concrete policy actions that the EU could adopt.

Each focus group's facilitator prepared an analytical report of the discussions and submitted it to the methodology expert who used the six summary reports in the drafting of the synthesis report.

Online focus groups

Online focus groups captured thematic recommendations in a regional discussion, and were open to both EaP and EU civil society experts. Four online focus groups were conducted in October 2019. These addressed the following thematic areas:

- FG1: Economic development
- FG2: Human capital development
- FG3: Good governance, rule of law, and security
- FG4: Civil society engagement

Each focus group hosted 5-10 civil society experts – 24 in total – all of whom are active within the working groups of the EaP CSF with relevant professional background and expertise specific to the thematic area discussed. Each focus group hosted a one-hour discussion on a set of 7-9 questions, which addressed each thematic cluster from a regional perspective. Questions were formulated to allow aggregation of a set of recommendations at regional level for the EU, based on the same logic and criteria as the in-person focus groups elaborated above. Furthermore, questions sought to build upon and complement the key findings from the national focus groups with regional recommendations, as well as to triangulate the conclusions of overlapping discussions.

Four summary reports were produced as a result of the online focus groups, and used in the drafting of the final synthesis report. These included a general set of recommendations as well as one for each question asked in a summary form. When drafting the summary recommendations, the following questions were asked to guide the narrative: *What patterns emerge from the discussions? What are the common themes across the EaP region? What new policy actions could the EU pursue beyond 2020? Can these be generalised for the region based on the focus group discussions?*

Online survey

The online survey was conceived as the most inclusive segment of the consultation, adding a quantitative element to the methodology that enabled the prioritisation of policy recommendations. One general online questionnaire complemented the focus groups. The survey was offered in two languages, English and Russian, and it was made available to all six partner countries of the Eastern Partnership, as well as to EaP CSF member organisations based in EU member states. A total of 160 representatives of EaP CSF member organisations filled out the online questionnaire from 3rd to 14th October 2019.

The survey asked a mix of 15 open-ended and closed questions (+2 identification questions) grouped into six themes, following the structure of DG NEAR's Structured Consultation questionnaire:

- a. Economic development (Q1, Q2)
- b. Human capital development (Q3, Q4)
- c. Good governance, rule of law, and security (Q5, Q6, Q7)
- d. Intra-EaP cooperation (Q8, Q9)
- e. EU visibility in the EaP region (Q10, Q11)
- f. EU support to civil society (Q12, Q13, Q14)
- g. Other (Q15)

An online survey report was produced which synthesized the 160 responses of the EaP CSF member organisations into summaries of recommendations per question asked. All responses in English and Russian were individually analysed and grouped at the national level first. These were then clustered to identify regional and thematic patterns across the six EaP partner countries. The summaries of recommendations provided for each of the questions thus reflect common patterns identified across the region, and are presented in the form of recommendations for the EU.



More Information

The Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum (EaP CSF) is a unique multi-layered regional civil society platform aimed at promoting European integration, facilitating reforms and democratic transformations in the six Eastern Partnership countries - Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine. Serving as the civil society and people-to-people dimension of the Eastern Partnership, the EaP CSF strives to strengthen civil society in the region, boost pluralism in public discourse and policy making by promoting participatory democracy and fundamental freedoms. For more information, please visit the EaP CSF website at www.eap-csf.eu