

Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum

Working Group 2 Meeting

18 June 2026, Online

Agenda

1. Introduction by the outgoing Working Group 2 (WG2) Coordinator
2. Round of introductions and presentation of the WG2 delegates
3. Introduction to the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum (EaP CSF) and WG2
4. Statutory elections and presentation of EU and EaP WG2 Coordinator candidates

Summary

On 18 June 2026, the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum organised the first online meeting for the 2026-2028 cycle of Working Group 2 (WG2) – Economic Integration and Convergence with EU Policies.

The meeting began with a short introduction from the outgoing WG2 Coordinator, followed by a round of introductions from the Working Group delegates. In total, 28 organisations are part of the Working Group:

Country	Organisation
Armenia	Tatevik Consumers Consulting Center SME Cooperation Association
Azerbaijan	"Constitution" Researches Foundation Entrepreneurship Development Foundation Social-Strategic Research and Analytical Investigations Public Union Center For Support For Economic Initiatives
Belarus	DAR LOSU Institute for development and social market in Belarus and Easten Europe
EU – Netherlands EU – France EU – Austria	Stichting de Lokale (New Belarus Platform) Eastern Circles Danube Civil Society Forum, DCSF



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EU – Germany EU – Bulgaria EU – Romania EU – Belgium	German Council on Foreign Relations (DGAP) Club "Sustainable development of Civil Society" Expert Forum Association (EFOR) Ukraine Facility Platform
Georgia	Association of Business Consulting Organizations of Georgia N(N)LE International Business and Economic Development Center Free Media Space Junior Achievement - Georgia
Moldova	Association of Business and Professional Women from Moldova Pro Cooperare Regionala Congress of Local Authorities for Moldova (CALM) Institute for Development and Social Initiatives Viitorul
Ukraine	Local Economic Development Agency of Yavoriv District NGO 'Ukrainian Evaluation Association' Analysis Centre of Agrarian Union of Ukraine, public organization Association of self-governments "Euroregion Carpathians Ukraine - Carpathian Regional Development Agency"

(For the full list of EaP CSF delegates, please consult this [page](#)).

Together, these organisations bring a diverse range of perspectives, expertise, and experience to the Working Group.

Following the introductions, the Director of the EaP CSF Secretariat delivered a brief overview of the Forum, explaining its role as the civil society dimension of the Eastern Partnership policy. He highlighted the Forum's mission to strengthen civil society in the Eastern Partnership countries, represent civil society in policymaking and implementation, and support democratic transition and European integration across the region.

The meeting then turned to the presentation of the Working Group 2, outlining its role in providing expertise on trade, convergence with EU policies and standards, as well as connectivity, harmonisation of digital markets and structural economic reforms. It covered the group's core activities as well as the different ways members can collaborate and share information.

In continuation, the Policy and Advocacy Manager outlined the EaP Civil Society Forum's advocacy work, highlighting its key policy outputs, including position papers (e.g. [WG2 –](#)



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2025), the [annual Resolution](#), and the [Eastern Partnership Index](#). She also presented the main advocacy entry points, such as consultations with EU institutions, events, meetings with Member State representatives, and participation in regional and other meetings and platforms. Finally, she provided an overview of the 2026 advocacy calendar, including Working Group meetings, contributions to the annual Resolution, the EaP Civil Society Summit in Chişinău, Republic of Moldova on 24-26 November, and opportunities to participate in regional events and ad hoc meetings.

The Communications Manager presented the Forum's communication channels, including its website and a [dedicated section](#) on the Working Groups, bi-monthly newsletter for members and external audiences and the Members' Update for internal communications. She also explained how members can contribute by sharing success stories, best practices, event information, photos, and journalist contacts to increase the visibility of their work across the Forum's platforms.

The Governance Manager provided an overview of the Forum's structure and governance. He explained the roles of the Secretariat, National Platforms, Working Groups, and the Compliance Committee, highlighting how they support the Forum's activities, coordinate civil society engagement, and ensure accountability. The presentation also outlined the responsibilities of Working Group Coordinators, including leading policy and advocacy work, coordinating members throughout the year, representing the Working Group within the Forum, engaging new civil society organisations, contributing to communications, and selecting experts to represent the Forum in external meetings.

Following this, the five applicants to the position of WG2 Coordinators presented their candidacies and shared their motivations for applying to the role.

The candidates from the EaP region were:

1. Samir Aliyev, Center For Support For Economic Initiatives, Azerbaijan
2. Larysa Starikova, PO 'Analysis Centre Agrarian Union of Ukraine', Ukraine
3. Angela Chicu, Association of Professional and Business Women, the Republic of Moldova

The candidates from the EU were:



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1. Anastasia Pociumban, German Council on Foreign Relations (DGAP), Germany
2. Roman Vybranovskyy, Ukraine Facility Platform (UAFP), Belgium

The meeting concluded with an announcement that the online election for the Working Group 2 Coordinators would open for 24h shortly after the meeting. Delegates were subsequently sent an email containing instructions on how and where to cast their votes.

The results were announced by email the following day as follows:

- **WG2 Coordinator from the EU:** Anastasia Pociumban, German Council on Foreign Relations (DGAP), Germany
- **WG2 Coordinator from the EaP:** Samir Aliyev, Center For Support For Economic Initiatives, Azerbaijan



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