

**Joint meeting of the EaP CSF Steering Committee and Board of
the Association**

Public Minutes

**Wednesday 18th September and Thursday 19th September 2024
(hybrid meeting)**

Steering Committee/Board members present in- person (10): Sergei Drozdovsky, Nino Elizbarashvili, Sergiu Gurau, Anastasiia Halyko, Ruslan Havryliuk, Anh Helge, Elen Manaseryan, Lasha Tughushi, Lana Willebrand, Konstantin Zhgenti.

Steering Committee/Board members present online (1): Gurgen Petrosyan

Steering Committee/Board members absent (2): Shahla Ismayil, Edgar Khachatryan.

Working Group Coordinators absent (non-SC members) (3): Veronica Stefan, Nataliya Andrusevych, Hovsep Khurshudyan.

Secretariat Staff present (14): Tania Marocchi (Director), Jeanette Fava (Chief Financial Officer), Alexandra Sabou (Advocacy and EaP Index Manager), Andrea Raimondi (Policy and Advocacy Manager), Maxence Salendre (Communications Manager), Pascal Willaumez (Membership and Governance Manager), Anastasia Murzanovska (Grants and Advocacy Officer), Kristina Pitalskaia (Programme Officer - SHAPEDEM), Adriana Hrushynska (Events and Administrative Officer), Anastasiia Suliak (Finance Assistant), Sofiiia Pedos (Finance and Procurement Assistant), Konstantina Batsouli (Advocacy and EaP Index Trainee), Lukas Rastovic (Communications Trainee), Claire Bandy (Trainee).

NOTA BENE: some Steering Committee members joined/left the meetings at different stages. Actual participation during each decision is noted in the detailed minutes below.



Overview of main decisions approved by the EaP CSF Steering Committee/Board of the Association:

DAY 1, Wednesday 18th September

- **10:45 to 12:30: SESSION 1. Round of updates (meeting of the EaP CSF Steering Committee)**

OUTCOME AND DECISIONS:

Steering Committee members present in person (10): *Sergei Drozdovsky, Nino Elizbarashvili, Sergiu Gurau, Anastasiia Halyko, Ruslan Havryliuk, Anh Helge, Elen Manaseryan, Lasha Tughushi, Lana Willebrand, Konstantin Zhgenti.*

Steering Committee members present online (1): *Gurgen Petrosyan.*

Formal question asked to the Steering Committee group: Do you approve the agenda of the Steering Committee meeting?

The agenda was unanimously approved by the 10 Steering Committee members present in the meeting*: *Sergei Drozdovsky, Nino Elizbarashvili, Sergiu Gurau, Anastasiia Halyko, Ruslan Havryliuk, Anh Helge, Elen Manaseryan, Lasha Tughushi, Lana Willebrand, Konstantin Zhgenti.*

**Gurgen Petrosyan had not yet joined the meeting at the time of the vote.*

- **13:45 to 15:15: SESSION 2. Financial operations (meeting of the Board of the Association)**

OUTCOME AND DECISIONS:

No decisions were taken during the session.

- **15:30 to 17:30: SESSION 3. Regranting (meeting of the EaP CSF Steering Committee)**

OUTCOME AND DECISIONS:

Steering Committee members present in person during the session (10): *Sergei Drozdovsky, Nino Elizbarashvili, Sergiu Gurau, Anastasiia Halyko, Ruslan Havryliuk, Anh Helge, Elen Manaseryan, Lasha Tughushi, Lana Willebrand, Konstantin Zhgenti.*

Steering Committee members present online during the session (1): *Gurgen Petrosyan.*

Formal question asked to the Steering Committee group: Do you validate the candidacies put forward by the Secretariat in view of pursuing with the selection of three for the external evaluators pool?



The decision to validate the candidacies put forward by the Secretariat in view of pursuing with the selection of three for the external evaluators pool was approved by the 7 Steering Committee members present*: Sergei Drozdovsky, Nino Elizbarashvili, Sergiu Gurau, Anastasiia Halyko, Ruslan Havryliuk, Elen Manaseryan, Lasha Tughushi, Konstantin Zhgenti.

*Gurgen Petrosyan, Anh Helge and Lana Willebrand were not in the meeting at the time of the vote.

Formal question asked to the Steering Committee group: Do you validate the EaP CSF guidelines pertaining to regranting to EaP CSF NPs for the 2025-2026 period and regranting to Members under Lot 1 for the EaP CSF Academy?

The decision to validate the EaP CSF guidelines pertaining to regranting to EaP CSF NPs for the 2025-2026 period and regranting to Members under Lot 1 for the EaP CSF Academy was approved unanimously by the 7 Steering Committee members present*: Sergei Drozdovsky, Nino Elizbarashvili, Sergiu Gurau, Anastasiia Halyko, Ruslan Havryliuk, Elen Manaseryan, Lasha Tughush, Konstantin Zhgenti.

*Gurgen Petrosyan, Anh Helge and Lana Willebrand were not in the meeting at the time of the vote.

DAY 2, Thursday 19th September

- **09:00 to 11:00: SESSION 4. Presentation and final validation of the Articles of Association (AoA) (meeting of the Board of the Association)**

OUTCOME AND DECISIONS:

1)

Steering Committee members present in person (10): Sergei Drozdovsky, Nino Elizbarashvili, Sergiu Gurau, Anastasiia Halyko, Ruslan Havryliuk, Anh Helge, Elen Manaseryan, Lasha Tughushi, Lana Willebrand, Konstantin Zhgenti.

Steering Committee members present online (1): Gurgen Petrosyan

Formal question asked to the Steering Committee group: Please vote for one of the presented options you would like to adopt on article 5.1 pertaining to the object of the Association.

- Option 1. Keeping the original phrasing of Article 5.1: Lana Willebrand (1)
- Option 2. Changing the text with the proposed change 1: including the sentence 'The Board shall decide which activities are undertaken and how.': None (0)
- Option 3. Changing the text with the proposed change 2: including the sentence 'The activities shall be undertaken in line with the strategies and policies, as decided by the Board.: Anh Helge, Elen Manaseryan, Nino Elizbarashvili, Anastasiia Halyko, Sergiu Gurau, Ruslan Havryliuk, Lasha Tughushi, Sergei Drozdovsky, Gurgen Petrosyan (9)



- Abstentions: Konstantin Zhgenti (1)

Decision: With 9 votes in favor, option 3 to change the text with the proposed change ‘The activities shall be undertaken in line with the strategies and policies, as decided by the Board.’ was approved.

2)

Steering Committee members present in person (10): Sergei Drozdovsky, Nino Elizbarashvili, Sergiu Gurau, Anastasiia Halyko, Ruslan Havryliuk, Anh Helge, Elen Manaseryan, Lasha Tughushi, Lana Willebrand, Konstantin Zhgenti.

Steering Committee members present online (1): Gurgen Petrosyan

Formal question asked to the Steering Committee group: Please vote for one of the two options presented you would like to adopt on article 10.4 pertaining to the acknowledgement of the resignation of Board Members.

- Option 1. Keeping the original phrasing of Article 10.4, therefore leaving the responsibility to the Director: Elen Manaseryan, Anh Helge, Lana Willebrand, Anastasiia Halyko, Sergiu Gurau, Sergei Drozdovsky (6)
- Option 2. Changing the text by adding the provision that the acknowledgement of the resignation of Board Members shall be done by the Co-Chairs: Gurgen Petrosyan, Konstantin Zhgenti, Lasha Tughushi, Ruslan Havryliuk, Nino Elizbarashvili (5)

Decision: With 6 votes in favor, option 1 to keep the original phrasing of Article 10.4, therefore leaving the responsibility to the Director was approved

3)

Steering Committee members present in person (10): Sergei Drozdovsky, Nino Elizbarashvili, Sergiu Gurau, Anastasiia Halyko, Ruslan Havryliuk, Anh Helge, Elen Manaseryan, Lasha Tughushi, Lana Willebrand, Konstantin Zhgenti.

Steering Committee members present online (1): Gurgen Petrosyan

Formal question asked to the Steering Committee group: Please vote for one of the four options presented you would like to adopt on article 19.1 pertaining to the elaboration and adoption of the agenda for General Assembly meetings.

- Option 1. Keeping the original phrasing of Article 19.1: The agenda of the meetings of the General Assembly shall be prepared by the Director and adopted by the Co-Chairs, acting jointly, or the Board’: Anastasiia Halyko, Anh Helge, Lana Willebrand (3)
- Option 2. Changing the text by adding the following wording: ‘The agenda of the meetings of the General Assembly shall be prepared by the Director and/or the Co-Chairs and adopted by the Co-Chairs, acting jointly, or the Board; In the case the Co-Chairs prepare the agenda alone, they must inform the Director’: None (0)



- Option 3. Changing the text by adding the following wording: ‘The agenda of the meetings of the General Assembly shall be prepared by the Director and the Co-Chairs and adopted by the Board; In the case the Co-Chairs prepare the agenda alone, they must inform the Director’: None (0)
- Option 4. Changing the text by adding the following wording: ‘The agenda of the meetings of the General Assembly shall be prepared by the Director and/or the Co-Chairs and adopted by the Board; In the case the Co-Chairs prepare the agenda alone, they must inform the Director’: Nino Elizbarashvili, Elen Manaseryan, Lasha Tughushi, Konstantin Zhgenti, Ruslan Havryliuk, Gurgen Petrosyan, Sergei Drozdovsky (7)
- Abstentions: Sergiu Gurau (1)

Decision: With 7 votes in favor, option 4 to change the text by adding the following wording: ‘The agenda of the meetings of the General Assembly shall be prepared by the Director and/or the Co-Chairs and adopted by the Board; In the case the Co-Chairs prepare the agenda alone, they must inform the Director’ was approved.

4)

Steering Committee members present in person (10): Sergei Drozdovsky, Nino Elizbarashvili, Sergiu Gurau, Anastasiia Halyko, Ruslan Havryliuk, Anh Helge, Elen Manaseryan, Lasha Tughushi, Lana Willebrand, Konstantin Zhgenti.

Steering Committee members present online (1): Gurgen Petrosyan

Formal question asked to the Steering Committee group: Please vote for one of the three options presented you would like to adopt on article 23.5 pertaining to the conditions for dismissal for members of the Board.

- Option 1. Keeping the original phrasing of Article 23.5, with the possibility of codifying in the internal rules the conditions needed to dismiss a member of the Board upon decision of the General Assembly: Anastasiia Halyko, Lana Willebrand, Anh Helge (3)
- Option 2. Postponing the agreement on Article 23.5 and changing the text with further outline of the conditions needed to dismiss a member of the Board upon decision of the General Assembly (further consultations with the lawyers needed): None (0)
- Option 3. Keeping the original phrasing of Article 23.5 and deleting ‘(vi) for any other reasonable cause: Elen Manaseryan, Nino Elizbarashvili, Sergiu Gurau, Ruslan Havryliuk, Lasha Tughushi, Konstantin Zhgenti, Gurgen Petrosyan, Sergei Drozdovsky (8)

Decision: With 8 votes in favor, option 3 to keep the original phrasing of Article 23.5 and deleting ‘(vi) for any other reasonable cause’ was approved.

5)



Steering Committee members present in person (10): Sergei Drozdovsky, Nino Elizbarashvili, Sergiu Gurau, Anastasiia Halyko, Ruslan Havryliuk, Anh Helge, Elen Manaseryan, Lasha Tughushi, Lana Willebrand, Konstantin Zhgenti.

Steering Committee members present online (1): Gurgen Petrosyan

Formal question asked to the Steering Committee group: Please vote for one of the four options presented you would like to adopt on article 27.1 pertaining to the elaboration and adoption of the agenda for Board meetings.

- Option 1. Keeping the original phrasing of Article 27.1, therefore maintaining the preparation of the agenda a shared task between Director and Co-Chairs: None (0)
- Option 2. Changing the text by adding the following wording: ‘The agenda of the meetings of the Board shall be prepared by the Director and/or the Co-Chairs and adopted by the Co-Chairs, acting jointly.’ : None (0)
- Option 3. Changing the text by adding the following wording: ‘The agenda of the meetings of the Board shall be prepared by the Director and the Co-Chairs and adopted by the Board. In the case the Co-Chairs prepare the agenda alone, they must inform the Director’: None (0)
- Option 4. Changing the text by adding the following wording: ‘The agenda of the meetings of the Board shall be prepared by the Director and/or the Co-Chairs and adopted by the Board. In the case the Co-Chairs prepare the agenda alone, they must inform the Director’: Sergei Drozdovsky, Nino Elizbarashvili, Sergiu Gurau, Anastasiia Halyko, Ruslan Havryliuk, Anh Helge, Elen Manaseryan, Lasha Tughushi, Lana Willebrand, Konstantin Zhgenti, Gurgen Petrosyan (11)

Decision: With 11 votes in favor, option 4 to change the text by adding the following wording: ‘The agenda of the meetings of the Board shall be prepared by the Director and/or the Co-Chairs and adopted by the Board; In the case the Co-Chairs prepare the agenda alone, they must inform the Director’ was approved unanimously.

6)

Steering Committee members present in person (10): Sergei Drozdovsky, Nino Elizbarashvili, Sergiu Gurau, Anastasiia Halyko, Ruslan Havryliuk, Anh Helge, Elen Manaseryan, Lasha Tughushi, Lana Willebrand, Konstantin Zhgenti.

Steering Committee members present online (1): Gurgen Petrosyan

Formal question asked to the Steering Committee group: Please vote for one of the two options presented you would like to adopt on article 33 pertaining to the powers of the Co-Chairs.

- Option 1. Keeping the original phrasing of Article 33, maintaining access upon request of the Board: Anh Helge, Elen Manaseryan, Nino Elizbarashvili, Anastasiia Halyko, Sergiu Gurau, Lasha Tughushi, Konstantin Zhgenti, Sergey Drozdovsky, Gurgen Petrosyan (9)



- Option 2. Changing the text by adding the following text as power of the Co-Chairs: '(j)Having unrestricted access to all the documents of the Association, provided that this access does not infringe the interests of the Association': None (0)
- Abstentions: Lana Willebrand, Ruslan Havryliuk (2)

Decision: With 9 votes in favor, option 1 to keep the original phrasing of Article 33, maintaining access upon request of the Board was approved.

Course of action:

As a course of action, the Secretariat will follow-up with the lawyers on the decision taken by the Steering Committee. The lawyers will include the changes and the adapted text will be presented to the SC group/Board for approval.

- **11:30 to 12:30: SESSION 5. Fundraising (meeting of the EaP CSF Steering Committee)**

The session was postponed to be held online at a date to be determined due to lack of time.

- **13:30 to 15:30: SESSION 6. Advocacy Strategy 2024-2026 and Advocacy Annual Work Plan 2024 (meeting of the EaP CSF Steering Committee)**

OUTCOME AND DECISIONS:

Steering Committee members present in person (10): Sergei Drozdovsky, Nino Elizbarashvili, Sergiu Gurau, Anastasiia Halyko, Ruslan Havryliuk, Anh Helge, Elen Manaseryan, Lasha Tughushi, Lana Willebrand, Konstantin Zhgenti.

Steering Committee members present online (1): Gurgen Petrosyan

Formal question asked to the Steering Committee group: Do you approve the Advocacy Strategy 2024-2026?

The Advocacy Strategy 2024-2026 was approved unanimously by the 11 Steering Committee members present: Sergei Drozdovsky, Nino Elizbarashvili, Sergiu Gurau, Anastasiia Halyko, Ruslan Havryliuk, Anh Helge, Elen Manaseryan, Lasha Tughushi, Lana Willebrand, Konstantin Zhgenti, Gurgen Petrosyan.

Formal question asked to the Steering Committee group: Do you approve the Advocacy Annual Work Plan 2024?

The Advocacy Annual Work Plan 2024 was approved unanimously by the 11 Steering Committee members present: Sergei Drozdovsky, Nino Elizbarashvili, Sergiu Gurau, Anastasiia Halyko, Ruslan Havryliuk, Anh Helge, Elen Manaseryan, Lasha Tughushi, Lana Willebrand, Konstantin Zhgenti, Gurgen Petrosyan.



- **16:00 to 17:30: SESSION 7. EaP CSF Civil Society Summit (meeting of the EaP CSF Steering Committee).**

OUTCOME AND DECISIONS:

1) Civil Society Award

Steering Committee members present in person (10): Sergei Drozdovsky, Nino Elizbarashvili, Sergiu Gurau, Anastasiia Halyko, Ruslan Havryliuk, Anh Helge, Elen Manaseryan, Lasha Tughushi, Lana Willebrand, Konstantin Zhgenti.

Steering Committee members present online (0): /

Formal question asked to the Steering Committee group: Please vote for the organisation to which you would like to give the 2024 Civil Society Award.

Votes of the Steering Committee members:

- **Journalism Resource Center – Georgia:** Anh Helge, Anastasiia Halyko, Elen Manaseryan, Nino Elizbarashvili, Lasha Tughushi, Konstantin Zhgenti (6)
- **Centrul Contact – Moldova:** Lana Willebrand, Sergiu Gurau (2)
- **Center for Civil Liberties – Ukraine:** Ruslan Havryliuk, Sergey Drozdovsky (2)

With a majority of six votes in favor, the organisation ‘Journalism Resource Center’ from Georgia was selected to receive the 2024 Civil Society Award.

2) Delegate-led session

Steering Committee members present in person (10): Sergei Drozdovsky, Nino Elizbarashvili, Sergiu Gurau, Anastasiia Halyko, Ruslan Havryliuk, Anh Helge, Elen Manaseryan, Lasha Tughushi, Lana Willebrand, Konstantin Zhgenti.

Steering Committee members present online (0): /

Formal question asked to the Steering Committee group: Please vote for the four delegate-led sessions you would like to select for the EaP CSF Civil Society Summit.

Four sessions were selected following the anonymous votes of the Steering Committee members:

- **‘The European Aspirations of the People of EaP Countries: the National Elections and the National Referenda in Georgia, Armenia and Moldova as a Test to the European Aspirations of their Peoples.’** (Proposed by Hovsep Khurshudyan - "Free Citizen" Civic Initiatives Support Center, Armenia); 12 votes
- **‘Evaluation of the state policy: must-have for EU accession countries.’** (Olha Krasovska - NGO 'Ukrainian Evaluation Association', Ukraine); 9 votes



- **‘The role of citizens and communities in reforming the country: European integration and post-war recovery prospects.’** (Nataliya Andrusyevych - Resource and Analysis Center "Society and Environment", Ukraine and Ruslan Havryliuk – on behalf of the Ukrainian National Platform); 10 votes
- **‘Circular Economy and Engagement of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs): Relevance of the Circular Economy for SMEs’.** (Nino Elizbarashvili - , Georgian Association “Women in Business”, Georgia); 9 votes

3) Photo exhibition

Steering Committee members present in person (10): Sergei Drozdovsky, Nino Elizbarashvili, Sergiu Gurau, Anastasiia Halyko, Ruslan Havryliuk, Anh Helge, Elen Manaseryan, Lasha Tughushi, Lana Willebrand, Konstantin Zhgenti.

Steering Committee members present online (0): /

Formal question asked to the Steering Committee group: Please vote for the photo exhibition you would like to prioritise having at the EaP CSF Civil Society Summit should it not be possible to accommodate both.

Votes of the Steering Committee members:

- **Independent photographer Zurab Tsertsvadze, Georgia; ‘Georgians taking the streets – Tbilisi protests against the Foreign Agents Law’:** Nino Elizbarashvili, Sergey Drozdovsky, Elen Manaseryan, Anh Helge, Lasha Tughushi (5)
- **Organisation ‘Gay Alliance’, Ukraine; ‘Those tempered at daybreak: LGBTQ+ eyewitness reports of the war in Ukraine’** Lana Willebrand, Anastasiia Halyko, Sergiu Gurau, Ruslan Havryliuk, Konstantin Zhgenti (5)

As both exhibitions gathered the same number of votes, it was agreed that the vote of the three absent SC members would be sought should it not be possible to accommodate both exhibitions at the EaP CSF Civil Society Summit.

4) EaP CSF Civil Society Summit agenda:

Steering Committee members present in person (10): Sergei Drozdovsky, Nino Elizbarashvili, Sergiu Gurau, Anastasiia Halyko, Ruslan Havryliuk, Anh Helge, Elen Manaseryan, Lasha Tughushi, Lana Willebrand, Konstantin Zhgenti.

Steering Committee members present online (0): /

Formal question asked to the Steering Committee group: Do you give your greenlight to move forward with the agenda of the EaP CSF Civil Society Summit?

All 10 Steering Committee members still present in the meeting unanimously agreed to move forward with the agenda of the EaP CSF Civil Society Summit: Sergei Drozdovsky, Nino

Elizbarashvili, Sergiu Gurau, Anastasiia Halyko, Ruslan Havryliuk, Anh Helge, Elen Manaseryan, Lasha Tughushi, Lana Willebrand, Konstantin Zhgenti.

DAY 1, Wednesday 18th September 2024

10:45 to 12:30: SESSION 1. Round of updates (meeting of the EaP CSF Steering Committee)

Participants:

Steering Committee (in person: 10): Sergei Drozdovsky, Nino Elizbarashvili, Sergiu Gurau, Anastasiia Halyko, Ruslan Havryliuk, Anh Helge, Elen Manaseryan, Lasha Tughushi, Lana Willebrand, Konstantin Zhgenti.

Steering Committee (online: 1): Gurgen Petrosyan.

Secretariat (14): Tania Marocchi, Jeanette Fava, Alexandra Sabou, Andrea Raimondi, Maxence Salendre, Pascal Willaumez, Anastasia Murzanovska, Kristina Pitalskaia, Adriana Hrushynska, Anastasiia Suliak, Sofiia Pedos, Konstantina Batsouli, Elma Isufi, Lukas Rastovic, Claire Bandy.

Vote on the adoption of the Agenda:

The agenda of the meeting was unanimously adopted by all Steering Committee members present (10)*:

Sergei Drozdovsky, Nino Elizbarashvili, Sergiu Gurau, Anastasiia Halyko, Ruslan Havryliuk, Anh Helge, Elen Manaseryan, Lasha Tughushi, Lana Willebrand, Konstantin Zhgenti.

**Gurgen Petrosyan had not yet joined the meeting at the time of the vote.*

Discussion

Tania Marocchi, Director of the EaP CSF Secretariat, welcomed the Steering Committee (SC) group to the meeting. She reminded Steering Committee members of the supporting documents sent two weeks prior to the meeting, which will support the discussions over the next two days.

Round of Updates

The National Coordinators of each National Platform (NP) were invited to give updates on the situation within their respective countries.

No update was given from the Azerbaijani National Platform (AzNP) as National Facilitator Shahla Ismayil was absent.

OUTCOME AND DECISIONS:

Steering Committee members present in person (10): Sergei Drozdovsky, Nino Elizbarashvili, Sergiu Gurau, Anastasiia Halyko, Ruslan Havryliuk, Anh Helge, Elen Manaseryan, Lasha Tughushi, Lana Willebrand, Konstantin Zhgenti.

Steering Committee members present online (1): Gurgen Petrosyan.

Formal question asked to the Steering Committee group: Do you approve the agenda of the Steering Committee meeting?

The agenda was unanimously approved by the 10 Steering Committee members present in the meeting*: Sergei Drozdovsky, Nino Elizbarashvili, Sergiu Gurau, Anastasiia Halyko, Ruslan Havryliuk, Anh Helge, Elen Manaseryan, Lasha Tughushi, Lana Willebrand, Konstantin Zhgenti.

**Gurgen Petrosyan had not yet joined the meeting at the time of the vote.*

13:45 to 15:15: SESSION 2. Financial operations (meeting of the Board of the Association)

Participants:

Steering Committee (in person: 10): Sergei Drozdovsky, Nino Elizbarashvili, Sergiu Gurau, Anastasiia Halyko, Ruslan Havryliuk, Anh Helge, Elen Manaseryan, Lasha Tughushi, Lana Willebrand, Konstantin Zhgenti.

Steering Committee (online: 1): Gurgen Petrosyan.

Secretariat (2): Tania Marocchi, Jeanette Fava.

Jeanette Fava, Chief Financial Officer, presented an analysis of the financial situation of our association as it is at present. This was followed by a discussion among the Board members.

OUTCOME AND DECISIONS:

No decisions were taken during the session.

15:30 to 17:30: SESSION 3. Regranting (meeting of the EaP CSF Steering Committee)

Participants

Steering Committee (in person: 10): Sergei Drozdovsky, Nino Elizbarashvili, Sergiu Gurau, Anastasiia Halyko, Ruslan Havryliuk, Anh Helge, Elen Manaseryan, Lasha Tughushi, Lana Willebrand, Konstantin Zhgenti.

Steering Committee (online: 1): Gurgen Petrosyan.

Secretariat (6): Tania Marocchi, Jeanette Fava, Andrea Raimondi, Pascal Willaumez, Anastasia Murzanovska, Anastasiia Suliak.

Discussion

Anastasia Murzanovska, Grants and Advocacy Officer, gave a presentation on the situation pertaining to the EaP CSF regranting process. This was followed by a discussion among the Board members.

OUTCOME AND DECISIONS:

Steering Committee members present in person during the session (10): Sergei Drozdovsky, Nino Elizbarashvili, Sergiu Gurau, Anastasiia Halyko, Ruslan Havryliuk, Anh Helge, Elen Manaseryan, Lasha Tughushi, Lana Willebrand, Konstantin Zhgenti.

Steering Committee members present online during the session (1): Gurgen Petrosyan.

Formal question asked to the Steering Committee group: Do you validate the candidacies put forward by the Secretariat in view of pursuing with the selection of three for the external evaluators pool?

The decision to validate the candidacies put forward by the Secretariat in view of pursuing with the selection of three for the external evaluators pool was approved by the 7 Steering Committee members present*: Sergei Drozdovsky, Nino Elizbarashvili, Sergiu Gurau, Anastasiia Halyko, Ruslan Havryliuk, Elen Manaseryan, Lasha Tughushi, Konstantin Zhgenti.

*Gurgen Petrosyan, Anh Helge and Lana Willebrand were not in the meeting at the time of the vote.

Formal question asked to the Steering Committee group: Do you validate the EaP CSF guidelines pertaining to regranting to EaP CSF NPs for the 2025-2026 period and regranting to Members under Lot 1 for the EaP CSF Academy?

The decision to validate the EaP CSF guidelines pertaining to regranting to EaP CSF NPs for the 2025-2026 period and regranting to Members under Lot 1 for the EaP CSF Academy was approved unanimously by the 7 Steering Committee members present*: Sergei Drozdovsky, Nino Elizbarashvili, Sergiu Gurau, Anastasiia Halyko, Ruslan Havryliuk, Elen Manaseryan, Lasha Tughush, Konstantin Zhgenti.

*Gurgen Petrosyan, Anh Helge and Lana Willebrand were not in the meeting at the time of the vote.

DAY 2, Thursday 19th September 2024

09:00 to 11:00: SESSION 4. Presentation and final validation of the Articles of Association (AoA) (meeting of the Board of the Association)

Participants:

Steering Committee (in person: 10): Sergei Drozdovsky, Nino Elizbarashvili, Sergiu Gurau, Anastasiia Halyko, Ruslan Havryliuk, Anh Helge, Elen Manaseryan, Lasha Tughushi, Lana Willebrand, Konstantin Zhgenti.

Steering Committee (online: 1): Gurgen Petrosyan.

Secretariat (3): Tania Marocchi, Andrea Raimondi, Pascal Willaumez.

Discussion:

Pascal Willaumez, Membership and Governance Manager, presented the latest developments pertaining to the Articles of Association (AoA). He reminded the SC group that the new AoA stem from a revision of the 2012 Articles of Association to bring them in line with mandatory updates required by Belgian legislation. They outline the roles and responsibilities of the Steering Committee members both as General Assembly members of the Association and as Board members of the Association.

Several SC members had expressed their wish to comment the AoA before their validation. The AoA were then shared with the SC members in several rounds of comments. As part of the dedicated Task Force, SC members Lasha Tughushi, Gurgen Petrosyan and Konstantin Zhgenti provided their feedback, as well as WG4 Coordinator Hovsep Khurshudyan.

The lawyers hired to work on the text took the feedback into account, with several suggestions when applicable.

- **On Article 5.1 pertaining to the object of the Association**

OUTCOME AND DECISIONS:

Steering Committee members present in person (10): Sergei Drozdovsky, Nino Elizbarashvili, Sergiu Gurau, Anastasiia Halyko, Ruslan Havryliuk, Anh Helge, Elen Manaseryan, Lasha Tughushi, Lana Willebrand, Konstantin Zhgenti.

Steering Committee members present online (1): Gurgen Petrosyan

Formal question asked to the Steering Committee group: Please vote for one of the presented options you would like to adopt on article 5.1 pertaining to the object of the Association.

- Option 1. Keeping the original phrasing of Article 5.1: Lana Willebrand (1)
- Option 2. Changing the text with the proposed change 1: including the sentence ‘The Board shall decide which activities are undertaken and how.’: None (0)
- Option 3. Changing the text with the proposed change 2: including the sentence ‘The activities shall be undertaken in line with the strategies and policies, as decided by the Board.’: Anh Helge, Elen Manaseryan, Nino Elizbarashvili, Anastasiia Halyko, Sergiu Gurau, Ruslan Havryliuk, Lasha Tughushi, Sergei Drozdovsky, Gurgen Petrosyan (9)
- Abstentions: Konstantin Zhgenti (1)

Decision: With 9 votes in favor, option 3 to change the text with the proposed change ‘The activities shall be undertaken in line with the strategies and policies, as decided by the Board.’ was approved.

- **On Article 10.4 pertaining to the acknowledgement of the resignation of Board Members**

OUTCOME AND DECISIONS:

Steering Committee members present in person (10): Sergei Drozdovsky, Nino Elizbarashvili, Sergiu Gurau, Anastasiia Halyko, Ruslan Havryliuk, Anh Helge, Elen Manaseryan, Lasha Tughushi, Lana Willebrand, Konstantin Zhgenti.

Steering Committee members present online (1): Gurgen Petrosyan

Formal question asked to the Steering Committee group: Please vote for one of the two options presented you would like to adopt on article 10.4 pertaining to the acknowledgement of the resignation of Board Members.

- Option 1. Keeping the original phrasing of Article 10.4, therefore leaving the responsibility to the Director: Elen Manaseryan, Anh Helge, Lana Willebrand, Anastasiia Halyko, Sergiu Gurau, Sergei Drozdovsky (6)
- Option 2. Changing the text by adding the provision that the acknowledgement of the resignation of Board Members shall be done by the Co-Chairs: Gurgen Petrosyan, Konstantin Zhgenti, Lasha Tughushi, Ruslan Havryliuk, Nino Elizbarashvili (5)

Decision: With 6 votes in favor, option 1 to keep the original phrasing of Article 10.4, therefore leaving the responsibility to the Director was approved.

- **On Article 19.1 pertaining to the elaboration and adoption of the agenda for General Assembly meetings**

OUTCOME AND DECISIONS:

Steering Committee members present in person (10): Sergei Drozdovsky, Nino Elizbarashvili, Sergiu Gurau, Anastasiia Halyko, Ruslan Havryliuk, Anh Helge, Elen Manaseryan, Lasha Tughushi, Lana Willebrand, Konstantin Zhgenti.

Steering Committee members present online (1): Gurgen Petrosyan

Formal question asked to the Steering Committee group: Please vote for one of the four options presented you would like to adopt on article 19.1 pertaining to the elaboration and adoption of the agenda for General Assembly meetings.

- Option 1. Keeping the original phrasing of Article 19.1: The agenda of the meetings of the General Assembly shall be prepared by the Director and adopted by the Co-Chairs, acting jointly, or the Board’: Anastasiia Halyko, Anh Helge, Lana Willebrand (3)
- Option 2. Changing the text by adding the following wording: ‘The agenda of the meetings of the General Assembly shall be prepared by the Director and/or the Co-Chairs and adopted by the Co-Chairs, acting jointly, or the Board; In the case the co-chairs prepare the agenda alone, they must inform the Director’: None (0)
- Option 3. Changing the text by adding the following wording: ‘The agenda of the meetings of the General Assembly shall be prepared by the Director and the Co-Chairs and adopted by the Board; In the case the Co-Chairs prepare the agenda alone, they must inform the Director’: None (0)
- Option 4. Changing the text by adding the following wording: ‘The agenda of the meetings of the General Assembly shall be prepared by the Director and/or the Co-Chairs and adopted by the Board; In the case the Co-Chairs prepare the agenda alone, they must inform the Director’: Nino Elizbarashvili, Elen Manaseryan, Lasha Tughushi, Konstantin Zhgenti, Ruslan Havryliuk, Gurgen Petrosyan, Sergei Drozdovsky (7)
- Abstentions: Sergiu Gurau (1)

Decision: With 7 votes in favor, option 4 to change the text by adding the following wording: ‘The agenda of the meetings of the General Assembly shall be prepared by the Director and/or the Co-Chairs and adopted by the Board; In the case the Co-Chairs prepare the agenda alone, they must inform the Director’ was approved.

- **On Article 23.5 pertaining to the conditions for dismissal for members of the Board**

OUTCOME AND DECISIONS:

Steering Committee members present in person (10): Sergei Drozdovsky, Nino Elizbarashvili, Sergiu Gurau, Anastasiia Halyko, Ruslan Havryliuk, Anh Helge, Elen Manaseryan, Lasha Tughushi, Lana Willebrand, Konstantin Zhgenti.

Steering Committee members present online (1): Gurgen Petrosyan

Formal question asked to the Steering Committee group: Please vote for one of the three options presented you would like to adopt on article 23.5 pertaining to the conditions for dismissal for members of the Board.

- Option 1. Keeping the original phrasing of Article 23.5, with the possibility of codifying in the internal rules the conditions needed to dismiss a member of the Board upon decision of the General Assembly: Anastasiia Halyko, Lana Willebrand, Anh Helge (3)
- Option 2. Postponing the agreement on Article 23.5 and changing the text with further outline of the conditions needed to dismiss a member of the Board upon decision of the General Assembly (further consultations with the lawyers needed): None (0)
- Option 3. Keeping the original phrasing of Article 23.5 and deleting '(vi) for any other reasonable cause: Elen Manaseryan, Nino Elizbarashvili, Sergiu Gurau, Ruslan Havryliuk, Lasha Tughshi, Konstantin Zhgenti, Gurgen Petrosyan, Sergei Drozdovsky (8)

Decision: With 8 votes in favor, option 3 to keep the original phrasing of Article 23.5 and deleting '(vi) for any other reasonable cause' was approved.

- **On Article 27.1 pertaining to the elaboration and adoption of the agenda for Board meetings**

OUTCOME AND DECISIONS:

Steering Committee members present in person (10): Sergei Drozdovsky, Nino Elizbarashvili, Sergiu Gurau, Anastasiia Halyko, Ruslan Havryliuk, Anh Helge, Elen Manaseryan, Lasha Tughushi, Lana Willebrand, Konstantin Zhgenti.

Steering Committee members present online (1): Gurgen Petrosyan

Formal question asked to the Steering Committee group: Please vote for the one of the four presented options you would like to adopt on article 27.1 pertaining to the elaboration and adoption of the agenda for Board meetings.

- Option 1. Keeping the original phrasing of Article 27.1, therefore maintaining the preparation of the agenda a shared task between Director and Co-Chairs: None (0)
- Option 2. Changing the text by adding the following wording: 'The agenda of the meetings of the Board shall be prepared by the Director and/or the Co-Chairs and adopted by the Co-Chairs, acting jointly.' : None (0)
- Option 3. Changing the text by adding the following wording: 'The agenda of the meetings of the Board shall be prepared by the Director and the Co-Chairs and adopted by the Board. In the case the Co-Chairs prepare the agenda alone, they must inform the Director': None (0)
- Option 4. Changing the text by adding the following wording: 'The agenda of the meetings of the Board shall be prepared by the Director and/or the Co-Chairs and

adopted by the Board. In the case the Co-Chairs prepare the agenda alone, they must inform the Director' : Sergei Drozdovsky, Nino Elizbarashvili, Sergiu Gurau, Anastasiia Halyko, Ruslan Havryliuk, Anh Helge, Elen Manaseryan, Lasha Tughushi, Lana Willebrand, Konstantin Zhgenti, Gurgen Petrosyan (11)

Decision: With 11 votes in favor, option 4 to change the text by adding the following wording: 'The agenda of the meetings of the Board shall be prepared by the Director and/or the Co-Chairs and adopted by the Board; In the case the Co-Chairs prepare the agenda alone, they must inform the Director' was approved unanimously.

➤ **On Article 33 pertaining to the powers of the Co-chairs**

OUTCOME AND DECISIONS:

Steering Committee members present in person (10): Sergei Drozdovsky, Nino Elizbarashvili, Sergiu Gurau, Anastasiia Halyko, Ruslan Havryliuk, Anh Helge, Elen Manaseryan, Lasha Tughushi, Lana Willebrand, Konstantin Zhgenti.

Steering Committee members present online (1): Gurgen Petrosyan

Formal question asked to the Steering Committee group: Please vote for one of the two options presented you would like to adopt on article 33 pertaining to the powers of the Co-Chairs.

- Option 1. Keeping the original phrasing of Article 33, maintaining access upon request of the Board: Anh Helge, Elen Manaseryan, Nino Elizbarashvili, Anastasiia Halyko, Sergiu Gurau, Lasha Tughushi, Konstantin Zhgenti, Sergey Drozdovsky, Gurgen Petrosyan (9)
- Option 2. Changing the text by adding the following text as power of the Co-Chairs: '(j)Having unrestricted access to all the documents of the Association, provided that this access does not infringe the interests of the Association': None (0)
- Abstentions: Lana Willebrand, Ruslan Havryliuk (2)

Decision: With 9 votes in favor, option 1 to keep the original phrasing of Article 33, maintaining access upon request of the Board was approved.

OUTCOME AND DECISIONS OF SESSION 4:

As a course of action, the Secretariat will follow-up with the lawyers on the decision taken by the Steering Committee. The lawyers will include the changes and the adapted text will be presented to the SC group/Board for approval.

* Session 4 dedicated to Presentation and final validation of the Articles of Association (AoA) lasted until 14:00 instead of 11:00 as initially foreseen.

11:30 to 12:30: SESSION 5. Fundraising (meeting of the EaP CSF Steering Committee)

The session was postponed to be held online at a date to be determined due to lack of time.

13:30 to 15:30: SESSION 6. Advocacy Strategy 2024-2026 and Advocacy Annual Work Plan 2024 (meeting of the EaP CSF Steering Committee)

Participants

Steering Committee (in person: 10): *Sergei Drozdovsky, Nino Elizbarashvili, Sergiu Gurau, Anastasiia Halyko, Ruslan Havryliuk, Anh Helge, Elen Manaseryan, Lasha Tughushi, Lana Willebrand, Konstantin Zhgenti.*

Steering Committee (online: 1): *Gurgen Petrosyan.*

Secretariat (10): *Tania Marocchi, Andrea Raimondi, Pascal Willaumez, Maxence Salendre, Alexandra Sabou, Anastasia Murzanovska, Adriana Hrushynska, Elma Isufi, Claire Bandy, Lukas Rastovic.*

Discussion

Andrea Raimondi, Policy and Advocacy Manager, opened the session by giving an update of the main advocacy priorities of the EaP CSF. He explained that the Secretariat is planning the EaP youth conference together with the European Parliament. Additionally, the Polish MFA expressed strong interest in participating in the EaP CSF Civil Society Summit.

Tania Marocchi added that their involvement will also translate into recommendations to the EaP Summit.

Andrea Raimondi additionally gave some updates on the advocacy campaigns in Armenia. An event will be organised on 6-7 November with the ANP, containing two panels. One panel will focus on the EU integration process. The second panel will focus on security, with a human security approach.

Alexandra Sabou, Advocacy and EaP Index Manager, gave some updates on the advocacy efforts focusing on Georgia. An advocacy campaign for the unconditional revocation of the Foreign Agents Law and for the resilience of the NP and civil society at large in the country is being put in place.

An advocacy visit is planned with the GNP on 15 and 16 October in Brussels in view of meeting as many stakeholders as possible. After the elections and whatever the outcome, further work will be carried out. The Secretariat will reach out to the NP Facilitators and WG Coordinators to support with various messages.

Alexandra Sabou then gave a short presentation of the EaP Index.

The EaP Index is a data driven project, focuses on the six EaP countries, involves over 60 civil society experts. The 2023 edition gather over 100 media mentions in EU and EaP media and has been downloaded 443 times from the website.

OUTCOME AND DECISIONS:

Steering Committee members present in person (10): Sergei Drozdovsky, Nino Elizbarashvili, Sergiu Gurau, Anastasiia Halyko, Ruslan Havryliuk, Anh Helge, Elen Manaseryan, Lasha Tughushi, Lana Willebrand, Konstantin Zhgenti.

Steering Committee members present online (1): Gurgen Petrosyan

Formal question asked to the Steering Committee group: Do you approve the Advocacy Strategy 2024-2026?

The Advocacy Strategy 2024-2026 was approved unanimously by the 11 Steering Committee members present: Sergei Drozdovsky, Nino Elizbarashvili, Sergiu Gurau, Anastasiia Halyko, Ruslan Havryliuk, Anh Helge, Elen Manaseryan, Lasha Tughushi, Lana Willebrand, Konstantin Zhgenti, Gurgen Petrosyan.

Formal question asked to the Steering Committee group: Do you approve the Advocacy Annual Work Plan 2024?

The Advocacy Annual Work Plan 2024 was approved unanimously by the 11 Steering Committee members present: Sergei Drozdovsky, Nino Elizbarashvili, Sergiu Gurau, Anastasiia Halyko, Ruslan Havryliuk, Anh Helge, Elen Manaseryan, Lasha Tughushi, Lana Willebrand, Konstantin Zhgenti, Gurgen Petrosyan.

16:00 to 17:30: SESSION 7. EaP CSF Civil Society Summit (meeting of the EaP CSF Steering Committee).

Participants

Steering Committee (in person: 10): *Sergei Drozdovsky, Nino Elizbarashvili, Sergiu Gurau, Anastasiia Halyko, Ruslan Havryliuk, Anh Helge, Elen Manaseryan, Lasha Tughushi, Lana Willebrand, Konstantin Zhgenti.*

Steering Committee (online: 0): /

Secretariat (10): *Tania Marocchi, Andrea Raimondi, Pascal Willaumez, Maxence Salendre, Alexandra Sabou, Anastasia Murzanovska, Adriana Hrushynska, Elma Isufi, Claire Bandy, Lukas Rastovic.*

Discussion

Pascal Willaumez, Membership and Governance Manager, gave a presentation of the state of play pertaining to the EaP CSF Civil Society Summit.

The EaP CSF Civil Society Summit and Working Group meetings will take place back-to-back from 19 to 21 November at the NH Danube City Hotel, Vienna. The welcome remarks and Civil Society Award Ceremony will take place on the evening of 19 November at the Diplomatic Academy Vienna.

Civil Society Award

The Civil Society Award ceremony will take place at the opening of the EaP CSF Civil Society Summit on the evening of 19 November at the Diplomatic Academy Vienna.

The call for applications for the Civil Society Award was open from 31 July to 26 August 2024.

Delegate-led-session:

During the EaP CSF Civil Society Summit, delegates will have the opportunity to host side sessions, possibly organised together with other delegates. The sessions are planned to be held on day 3 of the event, Thursday 21st November from 09:00 to 10:00.

A total of 14 different proposals for delegate-led sessions were received following the call for proposals which was open between 1 and 30 August 2024.

Out of these, 4 were submitted by Steering Committee members and 10 by other delegates.

Photo exhibition

It has been the past practice that a photo exhibition is displayed during the Annual Assemblies. It is also foreseen for the 1st edition of the EaP CSF Civil Society Summit.

OUTCOME AND DECISIONS:

- **Civil Society Award**

Steering Committee members present in person (10): Sergei Drozdovsky, Nino Elizbarashvili, Sergiu Gurau, Anastasiia Halyko, Ruslan Havryliuk, Anh Helge, Elen Manaseryan, Lasha Tughushi, Lana Willebrand, Konstantin Zhgenti.

Steering Committee members present online (0): /

Formal question asked to the Steering Committee group: Please vote for the organisation to which you would like to give the 2024 Civil Society Award.

Votes of the Steering Committee members:

- **Journalism Resource Center – Georgia:** Anh Helge, Anastasiia Halyko, Elen Manaseryan, Nino Elizbarashvili, Lasha Tughushi, Konstantin Zhgenti (6)

- **Centrul Contact – Moldova:** Lana Willebrand, Sergiu Gurau (2)
- **Center for Civil Liberties – Ukraine:** Ruslan Havryliuk, Sergey Drozdovsky (2)

With a majority of six votes in favor, the organisation ‘‘Journalism Resource Center’ from Georgia’ was selected to receive the 2024 Civil Society Award.

- **Delegate-led-session**

Steering Committee members present in person (10): Sergei Drozdovsky, Nino Elizbarashvili, Sergiu Gurau, Anastasiia Halyko, Ruslan Havryliuk, Anh Helge, Elen Manaseryan, Lasha Tughushi, Lana Willebrand, Konstantin Zhgenti.

Steering Committee members present online (0): /

Formal question asked to the Steering Committee group: Please vote for the four delegate-led sessions you would like to select for the EaP CSF Civil Society Summit.

Four sessions were selected following the anonymous votes of the Steering Committee members:

- **‘The European Aspirations of the People of EaP Countries: the National Elections and the National Referenda in Georgia, Armenia and Moldova as a Test to the European Aspirations of their Peoples.’** (Proposed by Hovsep Khurshudyan - "Free Citizen" Civic Initiatives Support Center, Armenia); 12 votes
- **‘Evaluation of the state policy: must-have for EU accession countries.’** (Olha Krasovska - NGO 'Ukrainian Evaluation Association', Ukraine); 9 votes
- **‘The role of citizens and communities in reforming the country: European integration and post-war recovery prospects.’** (Nataliya Andrusevych - Resource and Analysis Center "Society and Environment", Ukraine and Ruslan Havryliuk – on behalf of the Ukrainian National Platform); 10 votes
- **‘Circular Economy and Engagement of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs): Relevance of the Circular Economy for SMEs’.** (Nino Elizbarashvili - , Georgian Association “Women in Business”, Georgia); 9 votes

- **Photo exhibition**

Steering Committee members present in person (10): Sergei Drozdovsky, Nino Elizbarashvili, Sergiu Gurau, Anastasiia Halyko, Ruslan Havryliuk, Anh Helge, Elen Manaseryan, Lasha Tughushi, Lana Willebrand, Konstantin Zhgenti.

Steering Committee members present online (0): /

Formal question asked to the Steering Committee group: Please vote for the photo exhibition you would like to prioritise having at the EaP CSF Civil Society Summit should it not be possible to accommodate both.

Votes of the Steering Committee members:

- **Independent photographer Zurab Tsertsvadze, Georgia; ‘Georgians taking the streets – Tbilisi protests against the Foreign Agents Law’:** Nino Elizbarashvili, Sergey Drozdovsky, Elen Manaseryan, Anh Helge, Lasha Tughushi (5)
- **Organisation ‘Gay Alliance’, Ukraine; ‘Those tempered at daybreak: LGBTQ+ eyewitness reports of the war in Ukraine’** Lana Willebrand, Anastasiia Halyko, Sergiu Gurau, Ruslan Havryliuk, Konstantin Zhgenti (5)

As both exhibitions gathered the same number of votes, it was decided that the vote of the three absent SC members would be sought should it not be possible to accommodate both exhibitions at the EaP CSF Civil Society Summit.

- **EaP CSF Civil Society Summit agenda:**

Steering Committee members present in person (10): Sergei Drozdovsky, Nino Elizbarashvili, Sergiu Gurau, Anastasiia Halyko, Ruslan Havryliuk, Anh Helge, Elen Manaseryan, Lasha Tughushi, Lana Willebrand, Konstantin Zhgenti.

Steering Committee members present online (0): /

Formal question asked to the Steering Committee group: Do you give your greenlight to move forward with the agenda of the EaP CSF Civil Society Summit?

All 10 Steering Committee members still present in the meeting unanimously agreed to move forward with the agenda of the EaP CSF Civil Society Summit: Sergei Drozdovsky, Nino Elizbarashvili, Sergiu Gurau, Anastasiia Halyko, Ruslan Havryliuk, Anh Helge, Elen Manaseryan, Lasha Tughushi, Lana Willebrand, Konstantin Zhgenti.

- **END OF THE MEETING** -