

EaP CSF Working Group 2 (WG2)

Annual Report

This report presents the key activities, achievements, and thematic contributions of the EaP CSF Working Group 2 (WG2) under the 2025 Work Plan.

During the yearly reporting period, WG2 delegates participated in several internal and external meetings, contributed to consultations and the elaboration of one comprehensive policy paper.

A major milestone of the year was the completion and launch of the WG2 flagship policy paper “[Advancing Economic and Digital Transformation in the Eastern Partnership Region Enablers and Challenges. What is the Role of Civil Society?](#)”, focusing on economic and digital transformation in the EaP region. The paper was drafted by WG2 consultant, Haykuhi Harutyunyan.

The policy paper looked at how CSOs contribute to digital transformation and economic development in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, fostering inclusive governance, advocating for transparency, and supporting small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in leveraging digital tools. The paper also assessed the policies and frameworks that facilitate the active participation of civil society in economic and digital transformation, highlighting both the opportunities and barriers they encounter. The paper offers strategic recommendations for CSOs, national authorities, and the donor community, emphasising the need for structured collaboration, capacity building initiatives, and policy adjustments to foster sustainable digital and economic transformation in the EaP region. A launch event was organized on 21 May. The main takeaways from the event and the paper presentation can be found [here](#).

Annual WG2 Meetings

In line with its Annual Plan, WG2 held two annual meetings, one online (21 May) and one in-person, on the margins on the EaP CSF Civil Society Summit (2 December).

The meeting on 21 May featured country updates from all 6 EaP countries, a discussion on advocacy priorities and a public event focused on the presentation of the main take-aways from the WG2 policy paper. The discussants were:

Ms Haykuhi Harutyunyan, President of Protection of Rights Without Border, Author of the WG2 Policy Paper,

Mr Thibault Charlet, Programme Manager, Digital Transition and Economic Development, DG ENEST, European Commission,

Ms Svitlana Taran, Policy Analyst, European Policy Centre.

The meeting on 2 December is dedicated to gathering insights and recommendations on the funding needs of CSOs from the EaP region. The input is fed into the donor coordination session organized on the same day.

Participation in Regional Platforms and Dialogues

WG2 members and delegates attended XX meetings throughout 2025, including:

- **EaPeReg Spectrum Expert Working Group Meeting**, 5-6 May 2025, hybrid, Ekaterina Baramidze, The Levan Mikeladze Foundation, Georgia
- **25th EaPeReg Plenary Meeting**, hybrid, 17 June 2025, Lusine Petrosyan, Tatevik Charity organization, Armenia
- **26th EaPeReg Plenary meeting**, hybrid, 11-12 November 2025, Ludmila Caraman, BMW, the Republic of Moldova, Armen Martirosyan, Antares, Republic of Armenia
- **28th Forum 2000 Conference** (Prague), panel “Digital Power and Free Speech”, Haykuhi Harutinyan presented the findings of the WG2 flagship policy paper

No WG2 members and delegates expressed interest in attending the 20th Spectrum Experts Working Group meeting, that took place on 28 October (online).

Other matters

WG2 implemented its proposed activities for 2025, with the exception of knowledge-sharing sessions.