



**National Endowment  
for Democracy**  
*Supporting freedom around the world*



## Press-release

On July 7<sup>th</sup> of 2017, the Social-Strategical Researches and Analytical Investigations Public Union organized a workshop in Baku, in the framework of the project “Benefitting from EU open market: SMEs practical guide to DCFTA learning from experience of Latvia”.

The project received funding through the re-granting scheme of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum and is implemented by the Georgian “Association of Women in Business” in cooperation with Social-Strategical Researches and Analytical Investigations PU in Azerbaijan and the NGO Bios in Moldova. The first workshop of the project was organized in Tbilisi on July 4<sup>th</sup> and was followed by a second round of training for the experts involved in the project, which took place in Baku.

Experts from Latvia shared the trade relations experience of their countries with the European Union. After informing the participants about the project, the president of SSRAIPU Mr. Ilgar Huseynli presented the meaning of DCFTA ( Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement) and its profits for the signatory countries.



*The project benefits from the support through the EaP CSF Re-granting Scheme. Within its Re-granting Scheme, the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum (EaP CSF) supports projects of the EaP CSF members with a regional dimension that contribute to achieving the mission and objectives of the Forum.*

*The donors of the Re-granting Scheme are the European Union and National Endowment for Democracy.*

*The overall amount for the 2017 call for proposals is 290.000 EUR. Grants are available for CSOs from the Eastern Partnership and EU countries.*

*Key areas of support are democracy and human rights, economic integration, environment and energy, contacts between people, social and labour policies*

Mr. Eduards Filippovs, chairman of Business Union of Latvia, discussed with participants the process of economic integration of Latvia into EU market, presented case studies of Latvian enterprises entering EU market and SME policy in Latvia, as well as support measures to SMEs helping them to grow and enter EU market.

Mrs. Gunta Misane, advisor to Business Union of Latvia, delivered a presentation related to strategic planning, SWOT analysis, marketing and participants worked in groups to define export products of the country with best potential, target markets, obstacles and ways to overcome them.

Participants of the workshop included small and medium entrepreneurs, business membership organizations such as Azerbaijan Entrepreneurs' Association, members of NGOs, and representatives of Ministry of Economy, Ministry of Taxes, Ministry of Agriculture and State Customs Committee. At the end of the day, participants further discussed the project, and exchanged their views on how to ensure its sustainability.

Press service of SSRAIPU



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