

## 13th Annual Assembly of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum

### Road to recovery: fostering reform and resilience for a stronger Eastern Partnership

30 November - 2 December 2021<sup>1</sup>

*Online*

#### Short introduction of the event and the main thematic priorities of the event

Ahead of the 6th Eastern Partnership Summit (December 15-16, 2021), the 13th EaP CSF Annual Assembly will bring together more than 200 CSOs, as well as EaP and EU decision-makers to discuss the last steps and challenges ahead of this major event, and also the ambitions and policy objectives set out in the new policy documents. The road to successful recovery from the several unprecedented crises that have continued to grip the region in the course of 2021 has to be just, inclusive and in line with the core values that are at the basis of the Eastern Partnership. Building on messages from civil society voiced in the run-up to the EaP Summit, the debate on how best to put into practice the new EaP agenda, new single financial instrument 'Global Europe - NDICI' and new EaP architecture, in order to foster reform and resilience, will focus on security challenges, accountability as well as meaningful civil society involvement.

The EU's intention to assist in leveraging the EaP countries' economic power, enhanced by the economic and investment pillar of the new agenda as outlined in the Joint Staff Working Document (JSWD) - Recovery, resilience, reforms, is at the core of the new EaP policy. The collaboration on economic recovery has to be multi-stakeholder in nature so that it can deliver and also effectively address the global challenges arising from the climate crisis and support a digital transformation that will leave nobody behind, incorporating the lessons learned from the COVID-19 crisis in these areas.

Building resilience in the EaP region has to be linked to core values. Joint implementation and delivery on the targets set out in the new governance pillar of the EaP agenda is interlinked with the success of the economic pillar. Respect to human rights, rule of law and democratic accountability are at the basis of successful recovery and post-crisis transformation. Focusing on how to better monitor the governance pillar targets and introduce joint accountability for joint delivery, civil society will discuss best practices with stakeholders.

Focusing on Belarus - the summer of 2021 marked two important events. First, one year since the fraudulent presidential elections in Belarus. Second, the regime's announcement that the country is suspending its participation in both the Eastern Partnership policy and the Readmission Agreement. Belarus' further descent along the path of authoritarianism brought about unprecedented challenges for Belarusian civil society. Representing the voice of Belarusian citizens ahead of the EaP Summit

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<sup>1</sup> All times are listed in CET



and within the implementation of the new EaP policy and newly-revised EaP architecture is one of the key guiding principles of the event.

The Eastern Partnership Index 2021 and its recommendations, drawn up by experts from all six EaP countries, will provide a backdrop against which the new EaP policy targets and objectives can be assessed. The complex civil society monitoring of major trends will traditionally inform policy decisions and contribute to building stronger capacity in policy analysis and advocacy on the ground.

The 2021 Annual Assembly will also conclude the work of the delegates of the first two-year cycle of the Forum's history and take stock of the fitness of the EaP CSF WGs for the new EaP policy and updated multilateral architecture. The event will also provide a space to discuss the Forum's draft Strategy for 2022-2030 and prepare the ground for its validation and adoption. Traditionally, it will also celebrate the courage and inspiring achievements of journalists who have gone above and beyond the call of duty in the field of media freedom and freedom of expression, by presenting the Pavel Sheremet Award.

## ***Discover our agenda***

### **DAY 1, 30 November**

#### **TITLE: Check and launch - countdown to the EaP Summit**

**10:00 – 11:00**                    **Opening Ceremony of the 13th Annual Assembly of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum**

*The Opening Ceremony will launch the 13th Annual Assembly of the EaP CSF by presenting the main achievements of the past year. The high-level keynote speakers from the civil society, EU institutions and EaP partners will deliver major messages ahead of the 6th EaP Summit.*

Moderators:                    **Ana Indoitu**, Director, INVENTO  
**Sofia Strive**, Co-Chair, EaP CSF Steering Committee  
**Irina Sukhy**, Co-Chair, EaP CSF Steering Committee

Keynote speakers:            **Maia Sandu**, President of the Republic of Moldova (video address)  
**Charles Michel**, President of the European Council (video address)  
**Ann Linde**, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Sweden (video address)  
**Olivér Várhelyi**, European Commissioner for Neighbourhood and Enlargement, DG NEAR (video address)  
**Tatsiana Khomich**, Coordination Council Representative for political prisoners, Viktor Babaryka Team Coordinator

**11:00 - 11:15**                    **Break**

**11:15 – 12:30**                    **Thematic panel 1: Policy check ahead of the Eastern Partnership Summit**

*This high-level panel will address the major ambitions, political challenges and policy objectives ahead of the upcoming EaP Summit, and also the expectations for EU-EaP relations in the coming years by various stakeholders coming from the EU and EaP sides. The EaP region has been experiencing several unprecedented crises including the COVID-19 pandemic and conflicts in the area, namely the war in the region of Nagorno Karabakh, which have further deepened the existing social, economic and political issues of the EaP region with apparent democratic regression. For the EaP summit to embark on a path of successful recovery, the impact of the crisis, conflicts and regression of human rights have to be properly reflected at the EaP Summit. The questions to be answered during the panel are the following: What pre-conditions influence having a politically ambitious EaP Summit with a firm commitment by the political leadership of the EaP countries, combined with a strong and consistent commitment by the European Commission and EU member states? What are the implications for the EU and the new agenda set out by the EaP Summit? What are the conditions for successful cooperation in the upcoming period? Is the new EaP architecture open for a two-track approach that allows Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine to move faster and deepen their integration efforts? What are the unprecedented challenges for civil society and activists regarding the major hindrance to deliver on the joint EaP policy objectives?*

**Moderators:** **Elena Korosteleva**, Director, Global Europe Center; Visiting Professor Oxford Belarus Observatory, University of Oxford

**Speakers:** **Luc Devigne**, Deputy Managing Director for Russia, Eastern partnership, Central Asia, Regional cooperation and OSCE, EEAS  
**Lawrence Meredith**, Director, Neighbourhood East and Institution Building, Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations, European Commission  
**Emine Dzhaparova (tbc)**, First Deputy Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ukraine  
**Anna Westerholm**, Ambassador for the Eastern Partnership, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Sweden  
**Lousineh Hakobyan**, President, Europe in Law Association, EaP CSF SC Member, Armenia  
**Shahla Ismayil**, Chairwoman, Women's Association for Rational Development, EaP CSF SC Member, Azerbaijan

**12:30 - 13:30** **Lunch break**

**13:30 - 14:30** **General Assembly - EaP CSF by 2030: Our strategic vision and journey**

*The panel discussion on the new EaP CSF Strategy 2022-2030 will present the process of strategy development, its context and vision for 2030. The General Assembly meeting is a unique occasion to look at the draft Strategy and exchange views. If adopted, the Strategy will guide the life of the Forum, its practices, processes and policy approaches in the course of this decade and will be of utmost relevance for all members of the Forum and decision-making bodies. The General Assembly meeting is open to all EaP CSF delegates, interested members and observers.*

**Moderators:** **Ana Otilia Nutu, Tatiana Poshevalova**, EaP CSF Steering Committee Members

**Speakers:** **Snjezana Bokulic**, Strategy Consultant



**Vera Rihackova Pachta**, Interim Director of the EaP CSF SC Secretariat

Discussants:

**Mikayel Hovhannisyan**, Programme Director, Eurasia Partnership Foundation, EaP CSF WG1 Coordinator

**Viorel Chivriga**, Director of the Economic Department, IDIS Viitorul, EaP CSF WG2 Delegate

**Olena Kravchenko**, Executive Director, Environment-People-Law, EaP CSF WG3 Delegate

**Sabina Alakbarova**, Chair, "Young Leaders" Education-Training and Development Public Union, EaP CSF WG4 Delegate

**Olena Pavlenko**, President, DixiGroup, EaP CSF WG3 Delegate

**Lasha Bliadze**, Georgian Trade Union Confederation, EaP CSF WG5 Delegate

**14:30 - 15:00**

**Break**

**15:00 – 16:30**

**EaP Index: Charting Performance on Democratic Reforms and Policy Convergence in 2020-2021**

*The session will introduce the new Eastern Partnership Index 2021. This most up-to-date report on the EaP's regulatory approximation with the EU presents monitoring results by EaP country experts in 14 thematic areas. The session will tackle challenges in successful reform delivery, outline recommendations for improvement on democracy, good governance and sectoral reforms in support of transformational change.*

Moderator:

**Kerry Longhurst**, EaP Index editor, EaP CSF

Speakers:

**Tamar Khidasheli**, Deputy Director of the Democracy Research Institute on justice reform.

**Veronika Movchan**, Academic Director, Institute for Economic Research and Policy Consulting, Ukraine and Sector reporter on Free market and DCFTA.

**Veronica Cretu**, Open Government and Data for Development Expert.

**16:30-16.45**

**Break**

**16:45 - 17:30**

**E-Reception - Let's Mingle and Unwind with Award and Networking**

DAY 2, 1 December

TITLE - Road to recovery: delivering jointly on the economic investment plan, reform and resilience

**09:00 - 09:15**

**The day today**

**09:15 - 09:30**

**Break**



**09:30 - 10:45**      **WG meetings**

- o Working Group 1 (strategic focus)
- o Working Group 2 (thematic focus)
- o Working Group 5 (thematic focus)

*Each Working Group (WG) meeting within the Annual Assembly is made up of two parts: one of the WG sessions will be focused on the ongoing strategic reform of the WGs and will be led by an external strategist Snezana Bokulic; one session will be focused on the specific thematic areas of each Working Group and will be led by the WG Coordinators.*

**10:45 - 11:00**      **Break**

**11:00 – 12:30**      **Parallel country stakeholder sessions (Belarus, Moldova, Ukraine)**

*CSOs from each EaP country and the EU member states will discuss the most pertinent issues for a given EaP country with representatives of the national authorities and the EU institutions.*

**BELARUS:**      **Strengthening the role of Belarusian Civil Society in the Eastern Partnership**

*The session will address the current situation of the Belarusian civil society within the EaP framework, following the announcement by the MFA of Belarus to suspend the participation in the EaP and the wishing to withdraw from the Readmission Agreement. The participation of non-governmental institutionalized actors (civil society, private sector representatives, local communities, etc.) has become complicated due to unprecedented pressure from the Belarusian authorities within the country. On the other hand, these agents have no formal barriers to further participation in various dimensions and platforms of the Eastern Partnership. Thus, the focus of the session will be on how to strengthen the role of the Belarusian CS within the EaP.*

**Moderator:**      **Mikalai Kvantaliani**, Association "New Group", board member  
Coordination Committee BNP CSF EaP

**Speakers:**      **Małgorzata Łatkiewicz-Pawlak**, Ambassador for Eastern Partnership,  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Poland  
**Andrei Yahorau**, Chairman of the BNP Coordination Committee  
Representative of the European External Action Service, working with the  
Republic of Belarus  
**Evelina Schulz**, EU Delegation to Belarus

**MOLDOVA:**      **Tackling the energy crisis in Moldova: Short- and medium-term actions for enhancing Moldova's energy security**

*The session will address the Gazprom-caused energy situation affecting the Moldovan politics, economy and society, addressing elements of: (i) (geo)politics related to the possible conditions on which Gazprom insists (namely, the historical debt, supply of natural gas to the Transnistrian region which does not pay for it, and the postponement of the implementation of the 3rd Energy Package); (ii) economic situation (the inflationary and competitiveness effects as a result of the*



increase in tariffs for natural gas); (iii) social effects, as a result of the impact of raising tariffs and overall inflation on the poor; (iv) infrastructure constraints, due to Moldova's limited alternatives to import natural gas and electricity; and (v) internal political landscape, as this situation will most likely be explored by the opposition (major protests are expected).

Moderator: **Adrian Lupusor**, Executive Director, Independent Economic Think-tank "Expert-Grup", Moldova NP Facilitator

Speakers: **Andrei Spinu**, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Infrastructure and Regional Development, Republic of Moldova  
**Sergiu Tofilat**, Energy Expert, Community Watchdog.md, Moldova

### **UKRAINE: Ukraine's Integration into the EU's Digital Single Market: Challenges and Opportunities**

*This session will assess the progress of Ukraine's integration into the EU's Digital Single Market as well as how to focus on this agenda and prioritise the related tasks for the government. Civil society will discuss with the national and EU stakeholders how to address issues that are only generally described in the Ukrainian Roadmap for Integration into the Digital Single Market, as well as in other plans and documents from the Government of Ukraine and the European Commission that deserve further elaboration.*

Moderator: **Ivan Kulchytskyy**, President, Agency of European Innovations, Coordinator of the EaP CSF UNP WG4

Speakers: **Yuliya Garyacha**, Head of the Expert Group on European integration, Ministry of Digital Transformation of Ukraine  
**Volodymyr Nochvai**, Senior Researcher, Civic Union "The Centre for Innovations Development", EaP CSF UNP WG2  
**Tanel Tang**, Policy Officer, Support Group on Ukraine, DG NEAR, European Commission  
**Andrii Dresviannikov**, Expert on Trust Services and e-commerce, Ukrainian Center for European Policy

**12:30 - 13:15**      **Lunch break**

**13:15 - 14:45**      **Thematic panel 2: Setting the EaP's economic recovery in motion**

*Over the last decade, the European Union has worked together with international financial institutions (IFIs) and EaP governments to develop stronger and more diversified economies in the EaP region, particularly by supporting SMEs, sustaining job creation and trade opportunities. The results have been promising, but more needs to be done in light of the post-COVID-19 socio-economic recovery. The renewed agenda for recovery, resilience and reform for the Eastern Partnership underpinned by the Economic and Investment Plan requires a multi-stakeholder commitment to continue to address past, current, and future challenges arising from both the unprecedented effects of the pandemic and the climate-economy nexus. It is an opportunity to unlock stagnant structural reforms in the region, continue the progress made in terms of access to*

*finance and support for SMEs, boost digital transformation, and upgrade health systems - all by leveraging significant volumes of investments. At the same time, creating synergies between the EU, IFIs and the national, regional and local governments in each EaP country should remain part of this process. How to ensure the multi-stakeholder implementation of investment plans in all priority areas? How can we guarantee an equitable recovery that does not leave anyone behind and enhances both economic and environmental sustainability across the EaP region? What are the major lessons learned from the COVID-19 crisis that have to be foreseen in implementation of flagship initiatives with each EaP country? What is the experience of civil society in such multi-stakeholder cooperation and what role can the CSOs play? How can we ensure that the “green route” is economically and fiscally effective and socially inclusive?*

**Moderator:** **Nino Evgenidze**, Director, Economic Policy Research Center, Georgia

**Speakers:** **Nicholas Cendrowicz**, Nicholas Cendrowicz, Deputy Head of Unit Georgia, Moldova, Economic Investment Plan Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR), European Commission  
**Sergiu Gaibu**, Minister of Economy of Moldova  
**Samir Aliyev**, Board member of Center for Support for Economic Initiatives, Azerbaijan  
**Catarina Bjorlin Hansen**, Regional Head for the Caucasus, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development

**14:45 - 15:00** **Break**

**15:00 - 16:15** **WG meetings**

- o Working Group 3 (strategic focus)
- o Working Group 4 (thematic focus)

**16:15 - 16:30** **Break**

**16:30 - 17:30** **Side events**

*The aim of this section is to provide EaP CSF members with a space to co-create their own sessions as side events to the Forum's Annual Assembly.*

### **Side event 1 (60 min): Global Europe - NDICI: What are the funding opportunities for CSOs from EaP countries in the coming 7 years**

With an overall allocation of €79.5 billion, the new European Commission's instrument Global Europe (NDICI) for the period 2021-2027 will cover the EU cooperation with all third countries and at least €19.32 billion will be dedicated for the Neighbourhood countries. Apart from the geographical programmes, Global Europe will contain four thematic programmes - Human Rights and Democracy; Civil Society Organisations; Peace, Stability and Conflict Prevention; and Global Challenges. Global Europe has a strong focus on grants, blending and guarantees, which will allow the EU to strategically promote public and private investment.

The side event will focus on the funding opportunities for non-governmental organisations either via the EU Delegations or centrally launched calls from Brussels.

**Moderator:** **Pavel Havlicek**, Research Fellow at the Research Centre Association for International Affairs, Czech Republic

**Speakers:** **Jeroen Willems**, Deputy Head of Unit C.2 Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus & Eastern Partnership Coordination, DG NEAR, European Commission  
**Kristina Hrbková**, Czech Permanent Representation to the EU, Development cooperation and humanitarian aid (CODEV, COHAFA)

### **Side event 2 (60 min): Analysing the Role of CSOs in DCFTA Implementation in the Trio States - Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine**

The Georgian Institute of Politics (GIP) together with the Institute for European Policies and Reforms (IPRE) and Institute for Economic Research and Policy Consulting (IER) hosts this event. The aim of the conference is to present the key findings and recommendations of the joint report developed by Georgian, Moldovan, and Ukrainian researchers about the role of civil society organizations in the implementation of the DCFTAs in the Associated Trio. Particular emphasis is on the assessments of the CSOs' roles in informing the local SMEs regarding the opportunities of the DCFTAs. The discussion will be dedicated to the good practices and limitations of the CSO engagement in the implementation of the DCFTAs in Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine. The event audience will have an opportunity to listen to the assessments of the EU experts as well as the perspectives of the EU delegation representatives from Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine. The key audience of the event will consist of the EaP CSF platform representatives from the relevant working groups, independent experts, scholars, academics, SME representatives, and other stakeholders who will have an opportunity to engage in the discussion. The official language of the event will be English and simultaneous translation will be provided in Georgian, Romanian, and Ukrainian languages in Zoom.

**Moderator:** **Michael Emerson**, Senior Research Fellow, Project Leader of 3dcftas.eu, Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS)

**Welcome Remarks:** **Dr. Kornely Kakachia**, Director, Georgian Institute of Politics (GIP)  
**Speakers:** **Dr. Tinatin Akhvlediani**, Research Fellow, Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS) & Affiliated Analyst, Georgian Institute of Politics (GIP)  
**Elene Panchulidze**, Affiliated Analyst, Georgian Institute of Politics (GIP)  
**Stanislav Ghiletchi**, Deputy Research Director, Institute for European Policies and Reforms (IPRE, Moldova)  
**Mihai Mogildea**, Team Leader, Europeanisation Programme, Institute for European Policies and Reforms (IPRE, Moldova)  
**Anastasiya Kropova**, Junior Research Fellow, The Institute for Economic Research and Policy Consulting (IER Ukraine)  
**Bohdan Kostiv**, Junior Research Fellow, The Institute for Economic Research and Policy Consulting (IER Ukraine)



Discussants: **Dominik Papenheim (tbc)**, Thematic Coordinator for Economic Development and Market opportunities, Delegation of the European Union to Georgia  
**Dmytro Shulga (tbc)**, Program Manager, European Program, International Renaissance Foundation (Ukraine)  
**Vasile Plămădeală (tbc)**, Trade Officer, EU Delegation to Moldova

### **Side event 3 (60 min) Local Economic Development Agency of Yavoriv District, Ukraine - Road to Climate Neutrality: Road for EaP Countries**

By now, the EU countries have an understanding on what their aims and way to climate neutrality look like. But what about the EaP countries? And at least countries of the Associated Trio? Climate protection needs and economic reality in the EaP countries are not the same as in the EU. It needs additional communication and development of its own road map. Let's start from the Associated Trio to work out the Climate Neutrality Road Map. This event can be the starting point as it will discuss the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) in the case of Ukraine as one of the countries most exposed to CBAM as well as touch upon possibilities for dialogue and cooperation with regard to the implementation of specific elements CBAM.

Furthermore, the side event will focus on the topic of food safety within a chain 'from farm to fork' as a central concept of the European Green Deal. Last but not least, the speakers will discuss the climate policy of Ukraine, mainly, the country's pathways towards climate neutrality and the main drivers of changes towards a low-carbon economy.

Moderator: **Iryna Kuropas**, Deputy Head of Local Economic Development Agency of Yavoriv District, Ukraine

Speakers: **Olga Boiko**, European Business Association  
**Larysa Starikova**, Analytical Center of the Agrarian Union of Ukraine  
**Oleksandra Pravdyva**, Leading Council, Club of Economists, EU-UA Civil Society Platform  
**Natalia Harbuz**, PP Network Consortium  
**Natalia Garashchenko (tbc)**  
**David Tsiskaridze (tbc)**

## DAY 3, 2 December

### TITLE - Democratic governance and core values at the heart of resilience

**09:00 - 09:15**      **The day today**

**09:15 - 09:30**      **Break**

**09:30 - 11:00**      **Parallel country stakeholder sessions (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia)**

*CSOs from each EaP country and the EU member states will discuss the most pertinent issues for a given EaP country with representatives of the national authorities and the EU institutions.*

#### **ARMENIA: What Role for the EU in Armenia: opportunities for an effective partnership**

Alongside multiple challenges facing the European Union's (EU) Eastern Partnership (EaP), the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh war (the Second Karabakh war) further demonstrated that the EU needs more – not less – engagement in the region. During and after the end of the armed conflict, many eyes turned to the EU in expectation of a diplomatic initiative for a comprehensive settlement of the conflict.

The session will primarily focus on current prospects, opportunities, and challenges for multi stakeholder cooperation, economic connectivity, and peacebuilding in the region. The speakers will further assess the ways to facilitate closer cooperation between the EU, the Armenian government, civil society and other international partners in meeting the post-war challenges in Armenia, including humanitarian, human rights and security issues, and thus, contributing to making the emerging regional order more viable.

**Moderator:**            **Lousineh Hakobyan**, President, Europe in Law Association, EaP CSF SC Member, Armenia

**Speakers:**            **Jeroen Willems**, Deputy Head of Unit “Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus and Eastern Partnership Coordination”, European Commission, Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR.C2.), European Commission  
**Paruyr Hovhannisyan**, Deputy Foreign Minister of the Republic of Armenia  
**Mikayel Hovhannisyan**, Programme Director at the Eurasia Partnership Foundation, Armenia

#### **AZERBAIJAN: The role of civil society in EU-Azerbaijan relations: towards a renewed commitment for an enabling civil society environment**

The session aims to discuss developments in EU-Azerbaijan relations in the aftermath of the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh war (the Second Karabakh war) and of last year's Cooperation Council meeting



between the EU and Azerbaijan, touching upon the expectations for a new EU-Azerbaijan bilateral agreement.

In the context of ongoing discussions regarding the EU-Azerbaijan Partnership's priorities, namely strengthening institutions and good governance, this session will also focus on prospects for re-establishing and renewing commitments to creating an enabling civil society environment, in terms of registration, operations and access to funding opportunities.

Moderator: **Shahla Ismayil**, National Facilitator of the Azerbaijani National Platform of the EaP CSF

Speakers: **H.E. Ambassador Vaqif Sadiqov**, Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the Kingdom of Belgium  
**H.E. Ambassador Peter Michalko**, Head of EU Delegation to Azerbaijan  
**Ahmad Alili**, Director, Caucasus Policy Analysis Centre

### **GEORGIA: Polarization as a Challenge on the European Way of Georgia**

This session will focus on the issue of political polarization in Georgia since the high degree of confrontation between the political forces hinders the country's development process, as well as the conduct of reforms vital for Georgia's European future.

Moderator: **Kakha Gogolashvili**, Director of EU Studies Center, GFSIS

Speakers: **Kakha Kuchava**, Chairman of the Parliament of Georgia  
**Ana Natsvlishvili**, Member of Parliament of Georgia, Faction Lelo - Partnership for Georgia  
**Marina Kaljurand**, MEP & Chair of the European Parliament's Delegation to Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia  
**Dorota Dlouchy-Suliga**, Deputy Head of Division Eastern Partnership Bilateral, EEAS  
**Lasha Tughushi**, Director, Liberal Academy Tbilisi Foundation

**11:00 - 11:15**      **Break**

**11:15 - 12:30**      **WG meetings**

- Working Group 2 (strategic focus)
- Working Group 5 (strategic focus)
- Working Group 3 (thematic focus)

**12:30 - 13:30**      **Lunch break**



**13:30 – 14:45**      **Thematic panel 3: Democratic governance in the EaP -  
Strengthening transparency, accountability and monitoring for  
post-crisis transformation**

*The future resilience of the EaP region is closely linked to the performance of the EaP countries in the areas of democratic governance, human rights and rule of law. When assessing the implementation of 20 Deliverables for 2020, it was remarked both by the civil society but also EU institutions that the EaP countries were lagging behind the defined targets. Frequent backsliding and push backs against the transparent and fair judiciary reforms, free media landscape, introduction of non-discrimination legislation including gender policies or repeated transgressions of human rights are undermining the reform ethos, citizens' trust and expectations but also economic performance and business opportunities. Joint implementation and delivery on the targets set out in the new governance pillar of the EaP agenda is directly linked to the success of the economic pillar and overall resilience of the EaP countries. Democratic accountability has to be at the basis of successful recovery and post-crisis transformation of the region. How can we jointly better monitor the performance of the EaP governments in the governance pillar? Which tools are at hand and how well defined are the indicators and benchmarks in the JSWD? How can we jointly monitor the funding going to the region and make sure it is employed for the benefit of all citizens? How can we introduce and implement joint accountability for the delivery of the key targets? Civil society will discuss the best practices and recommendations with the stakeholders*

Moderators:      **Iulian Groza**, Executive Director, Institute for European Policies and Reforms (IPRE), Moldova

Speakers:      **Kristinne Grigoryan**, First Deputy Minister, Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Armenia  
**Oksana Kisselyova**, Team leader, EU4Gender Equality Reform Helpdesk  
**Jeroen Willems**, Deputy Head of Unit, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus & Eastern Partnership Coordination, DG NEAR, European Commission  
**Sofia Strive**, Co- Chair, EaP CSF Steering Committee, ForumCiv  
**Andrei Yahorau**, Director, Center for European Transformation, Belarus  
**Stefan Meister**, Head, Program International Order and Democracy, German Council on Foreign Relations, EaP Think Tank Network

**14:45 - 15:00**      **Break**

**15:00 - 16:15**      **WG meetings**

- o Working Group 1 (thematic focus)
- o Working Group 4 (strategic focus)

**16:15 - 16:30**      **Break**

**16:30 - 17:00**      **Closing ceremony - The Road Ahead**

Moderator:      **Ana Indoitu**, Director, INVENTO



Speakers: **Sofia Strive** and **Irina Sukhy**, Co-chairs of the EaP CSF Steering Committee  
**Jaroslav Kurfürst**, Special Envoy for the Eastern Partnership, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Czech Republic

*In the closing ceremony, the participants will reflect on the main messages of AA 2021 and will be informed about the upcoming milestones in the delegate selection process, online adoption of the EaP CSF Strategy 2022-2030, and elections for statutory roles. The guest speaker will provide an outline of the priorities of the upcoming Czech EU Council Presidency (July-December 2022) for the EaP. Participants will also learn about the AA2022.*

