

# Annual activities report of the Armenian National Platform

## December 2018-October 2019

Three main NP achievements:

- Awareness on the CSF and ANP activities raised through regional meetings
- Activation of dialogue with RA ministries over CEPA Implementation Roadmap
- Progress in the negotiations over the establishment of the CEPA Civil Society Platform

The activities of the EaP CSF Armenian National Platform were mainly focused on the following key issues:

- Establishment of the EU-Armenia Civil Society Platform envisaged by CEPA
- CEPA implementation Roadmap
- Raising awareness on the EaP CSF and ANP in the regions of Armenia
- Development of cooperation with RA Ministries through the sectoral dialogues on CEPA Roadmap
- Reacting to the situation in the judiciary in Armenia with a particular focus on the crisis in the Constitutional Court.

The following activities were carried out by the ANP in line with its priorities:

### **1. Meetings and conferences of the Armenian National Platform to discuss current issues and work on various initiatives**

- The ANP Executive Body and several other members' meeting with the new Head of the EU Delegation to Armenia Mrs. Andrea Wiktorin in the premises of the EU Delegation to Armenia. October 30, 2019 (13 participants)

#### Main issues discussed:

Future cooperation of the ANP with the EU Delegation including on CEPA;

EU-Armenia Civil Society Platform establishment details;

Foreseen CEPA monitoring activities

EU priorities in Armenia, including in the area of the protection of women human rights defenders

The EaP CSF Armenia Country Facilitator updated the Ambassador about the progress in the area of establishing the CEPA Civil Society Platform. ANP plays a leading role in the establishment of CEPA as ANP Facilitator has been meeting with the relevant stakeholders and explaining to them the need to establish the CEPA platform based on the principles of transparency, inclusiveness and rotation. Following this meeting an Initiative Group was set to develop the criteria and procedure for election of representatives to the CEPA Civil Society Platform.

- Meeting of the Country Facilitator Lousineh Hakobyan with the stakeholders of the future CEPA Civil Society Platform at Ani Plaza Hotel on October 29, 2019

#### Main issues discussed:

The Establishment of the Initiative Group responsible for developing the procedure and the criteria for elections to the CEPA Civil Society Platform;

Deadline set for the submission of recommendations;

Next meeting scheduled for November 12, 2019

- Extended meeting of the EaP CSF Armenian National Platform Executive Body. Yerevan Press Club hall. September 18, 2019 (8 participants)

Main issues discussed:

Development of the schedule of the ANP members' regional meetings;  
Establishment of thematic discussion groups with the participation of state agencies' representatives;  
Progress with regard to the establishment of the EU-Armenia Civil Society Platform (updates provided by Country Facilitator Lousineh Hakobyan);  
Discussion of the thematic priorities of the regional meetings and their formats of presentation;  
The draft agenda of the following CSF Armenian Delegates General Assembly and the possible guest speakers;  
ANP regranting projects

- Meeting of the ANP Facilitator Lousineh Hakobyan with Gonzalo Serrano de la Rosa, Head of Cooperation Section of the EU Delegation to Armenia on September 13, 2019

Main issues discussed:

The problems concerning the establishment of the CEPA Civil Society Platform;  
Further cooperation with EU Delegation and the Government in a multi-stakeholder format

- First meeting of the ANP Executive Body following the elections of the Country Facilitator and the WG Coordinators in the premises of Europe in Law Association NGO, August 29, 2019 (8 participants)

Main issues discussed:

The priorities of the WGs and the vision of the coordinators on the future activities;  
Suggestions on the thematic areas to be set for the ANP Secretariat project support call and the possible dates of implementation;

- Meeting of the ANP Executive Body members with Line Urban, International Aid/Cooperation Officer at the EU Delegation to Armenia in the premises of the EU Delegation to Armenia. August 29, 2019

Main issues discussed:

Position of the ANP on the establishment of the CEPA EU-Armenia Civil Society Platform;  
Suggestion to involve consultants in the process of the establishment of the Platform

- Meeting of the ANP Executive Body members with Line Urban, International Aid/Cooperation Officer, and Gonzalo Serrano De La Rosa, Head of Cooperation Section at the EU Delegation to Armenia in the premises of the EU Delegation to Armenia. July 25, 2019

Main issues discussed:

Proportion of the representatives of civil society, trade unions and employers in the EU-Armenia Civil Society Platform to be formed;  
Prospects and procedures of organizing elections to the Platform to be established

- EaP CSF Armenian Delegates General Assembly. Best Western Congress Hotel, Yerevan. June 7, 2019 (48 participants)

Main issues discussed:

Alignment of the CSF ANP Organizational Principles with the CSF reform;  
Elections of the CSF Armenia Country Facilitator;  
Issues related to the establishment of “EU-Armenia CEPA Bilateral Civil Society Platform”.

As a result, supplements to the ANP Organizational Principles in line with the CSF reform were unanimously [adopted](#). Lousineh Hakobyan, President of “Europe in Law Association” NGO, was elected as CSF Armenia Country Facilitator through secret ballot with 16 votes out of the 17 delegates that took part in the election.

- EaP CSF Armenian Delegates General Assembly. Best Western Congress Hotel, Yerevan. May 3, 2019 (47 participants)

Main topics discussed:

Priorities of the implementation of the CSF ANP Secretariat “Enhancing CSF Armenian National Platform Contribution to the EU-Armenia Cooperation” Project;

Issues related to the establishment of the EU-Armenia bilateral civil society platform envisaged by CEPA;

Issues related to the preparation of meetings of Working Groups 1, 2 and 5;

The event was attended by Line Urban, International Aid/Cooperation Officer at the EU Delegation to Armenia

- General meeting of the members of the EaP CSF Armenian National Platform Secretariat. Yerevan Press Club hall. April 9, 2019 (11 participants)

Main issues discussed:

Establishment of the ANP Supervising Commission

A special emphasis was made on the gender balance in the Supervising Commission to be formed. It was decided to come up with nominations and organize a voting online among the member CSOs of the ANP Secretariat. Three of the nominees with most votes became members of the Commission – Julia Amirkhanyan, Hovsep Khurshudyan and Garnik Vagharshakyan (deceased).

The General Assembly of the “Secretariat of the Armenian National Platform of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum” union of non-profit legal entities (hereafter referred to as Union) established on April 9, 2019 a supervising commission composed of the members of the Union. The supervising commission will conduct supervision of the financial, economic activities of the Union and its governing bodies. The Union has its permanent Board (composed of CSF Armenia Country Facilitator and the Coordinators of the 5 Working Groups) and Chairperson (which is the current CSF Armenia Country Facilitator). The Board of the Union is a permanently acting body governing the activities of the Union in periods between the meetings of General Assembly of the Union members. The Board will approve the budget of the Union before its final submission to the General Assembly for adoption.

The General Assembly will listen to and approve the reports of the supervising commission of the Union. The approved budget and the financial reports, as well as all the current ANP activities within the re-granting Project will be regularly published on the ANP webpage and disseminated among the ANP members through ANP mailing lists and to wider public through the ANP Facebook page.

For detailed information regarding the governing bodies, please see [Parts 5, 6 and 7](#) of the Charter.

For detailed information regarding the supervising commission please see [Part 9](#) of the Charter.

- Meeting of the EaP CSF Armenian National Platform Executive Body. Yerevan Press Club hall. March 14, 2019 (8 participants)

Main topics discussed:

ANP Secretariat Self-Assessment form to be submitted to the CSF Secretariat;

Points to be included in the Secretariat Re-Granting proposal;

Development of procedures for the ANP members to apply for small grants

CSF Armenian National Platform members’ regional visits

**2. Regional visits of the ANP members aimed at raising awareness on the current state and development of Armenia-EU relations, with a special focus on CEPA implementation Roadmap, 20 Deliverables for 2020**

- **Gavar, Gegharkunik region, at Gavar Youth Center, October 18, 2019.** Meeting with the representatives of civil society and local governance bodies on the EaP CSF ANP priorities in the

context of implementation of the EU-Armenia Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement (CEPA) (23 participants)

Event organized with the assistance of ANP member local Blejan NGO and attended by ANP Secretariat Managing Director Heriknaz Harutyunyan, coordinators of ANP WG 1 Abraham Artashesyan, WG 3 Amalya Hambartsumyan, WG5 Arzuman Harutyunyan, as well as representative of WG2 Movses Aristakesyan.

The purpose of the meeting was to raise awareness on the EaP CSF and ANP and to raise interest especially among regional organisations to participate actively in the activities of the ANP. Another purpose was to learn more about the EaP policy-related concerns of the regional organisations to better reflect them in the planning of the ANP activities. Added to that, as a result of these meetings several CSOs submitted applications to become ANP members. This purpose was the same for all the 3 regional meetings.

Presentations delivered:

- The progress of LSG reforms in Armenia, Abraham Artashesyan (WG1)
  - Issues with the development of small and medium enterprises and folk crafts, Movses Artistakesyan (WG 2)
  - A number of topical environmental issues within the CSF ANP WG 3, Amalya Hambartsumyan (WG3)
  - Social dialogue as a means of the establishment of a social state and solution of social issues, Arzuman Harutyunyan (WG5)
  - Presentation of a successful experience of social entrepreneurship, Anahit Gevorgyan (WG2)
- **Gyumri, Shirak region, at Gyumri municipality, October 15, 2019.** Meeting with the representatives of civil society and local governance bodies on the EaP CSF ANP priorities in the context of implementation of the EU-Armenia Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement (CEPA) (29 participants).

Event organized with the assistance of ANP member local Biosophia NGO and attended by the CSF Armenia Country Facilitator Lousineh Hakobyan, ANP Secretariat Managing Director Heriknaz Harutyunyan, coordinators of ANP WG 1 Abraham Artashesyan, WG 3 Amalya Hambartsumyan, WG5 Arzuman Harutyunyan.

Presentations delivered:

- The EaP CSF ANP priorities in the context of implementation of CEPA, Lousineh Hakobyan, Country Facilitator
  - Issues with the development of small and medium enterprises and folk crafts, Samvel Tonoyan (Center of Economic Right NGO) (WG 2)
  - A number of topical environmental issues within the CSF ANP WG 3, Amalya Hambartsumyan (WG3)
  - Social dialogue as a means of the establishment of a social state and solution of social issues, Arzuman Harutyunyan (WG5)
- **Vanadzor, Lori region, at Vanadzor municipality, October 2, 2019.** Meeting with the representatives of civil society and local governance bodies entitled “EaP Civil Society Forum until 2020 and onwards: CSF Armenian National Platform Priorities”.

Event organized with the assistance of ANP member local “Peace Dialogue” NGO and attended by the CSF Armenia Country Facilitator Lousineh Hakobyan, ANP Secretariat Managing Director Heriknaz Harutyunyan, coordinators of ANP WG 1 Abraham Artashesyan, WG 3 Amalya Hambartsumyan, WG 4 Artur Ghazaryan, WG5 Arzuman Harutyunyan.

Presentations delivered:

- The EaP CSF ANP priorities in the context of implementation of CEPA, Lousineh Hakobyan, Country Facilitator
- The progress of LSG reforms in Armenia, Abraham Artashesyan (WG1)
- A number of topical environmental issues within the CSF ANP WG 3, Amalya Hambartsumyan (WG3)
- Social dialogue as a means of the establishment of a social state and solution of social issues, Arzuman Harutyunyan (WG5)

### **3. Series of Government-civil society roundtable discussions on the CEPA implementation Roadmap**

- Discussion on CEPA Title 5 Articles (agriculture and development of rural communities) at the RA Ministry of Territorial Administration and Development. May 16, 2019, with the participation of at least 7 representatives of the ANP.
- Discussion on CEPA Title 3 Articles (justice, freedom and security; cooperation on migration, asylum and border management; movement of persons and readmission) at the RA Ministry of Foreign Affairs. April 30, 2019, with the participation of at least 10 representatives of the ANP.
- Discussion on CEPA Title 5 Articles (taxation, environment, climate change actions, agriculture and development of rural communities, protection of consumers) at the RA Ministry of Foreign Affairs. April 25, 2019 with the participation of at least 5 representatives of the ANP.
- Discussion on CEPA Title 5 Articles (transport; energy cooperation, including nuclear safety) at the RA Ministry of Foreign Affairs. April 18, 2019 with the participation of 10 representatives of the ANP.

The representatives of the ANP member CSOs came up with a number of proposals and recommendations, which were introduced both at the meetings and via email. Feedback was received from the relevant departments of ministries with specified comments on each of the recommendations and their adoption or refusal by those responsible.

For example, the following recommendations were made and respective feedback received:

- Article 4. Internal Reforms: adoption of amendments to the RA Electoral Code  
*Proposal:* set 2021 as a deadline for implementation, since it is necessary to have the expected outcome of the legal grounds and mechanisms for a transparent election at least 2 years before the next election. *Proposal adopted.*
- *Proposal:* to focus on solving the problems of formation of a legal culture and introduction of sharp change mechanisms in legal practice. *Answer:* “The proposal will be discussed within the framework of consultations on the Judicial Reforms 2019-2024 Strategy and the actions deriving from it”.
- *Proposal:* Envisage amendments to the Law related to media sphere, as stipulated by the CEPA Article 100. To adopt a new law on TV and Radio in 2020. *Answer:* “The proposal has been adopted: in particular, the RA Ministry of Justice has suggested to incorporate the development and adoption of the legislative amendments regulating the media sphere into the draft Roadmap.

### **4. Statements of the Armenian National Platform**

- EaP CSF ANP Statement on the necessity of radical changes in the judicial system of Armenia. July 5, 2019 <https://eaparmenianews.wordpress.com/2019/07/09/issue-290/>
- EaP CSF ANP Statement on the Implementation of Article 366 of the RA-EU Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement (CEPA). June 14, 2019 <https://eaparmenianews.wordpress.com/2019/06/19/issue-289/>

##### **5. Maintenance of the website of the CSF Armenian National Platform and its Facebook page, issuing the ANP newsletter**

Throughout the reporting period, the Secretariat was maintaining the [webpage](#) of the Platform on WordPress. The logos have been modified in line with the visibility requirements of the ANP Secretariat current grant. The webpage includes general information about the platform, organizational principles, reports, documents, statements and weekly update on the Eastern Partnership, EaP Civil Society Forum and ANP activities, as well as information for the civil society (projects, available grants, calls for proposals, studies, etc.) All the information is available in Armenian and English. In the reporting period 7 issues of the ANP newsletter have been published. The issues were mostly related to the Eastern Partnership, EaP Civil Society Forum, ANP activities, EU Neighbourhood Policy, EU-Armenia relations, EU Delegation to Armenia, as well as contained all the Statements of the EaP CSF ANP on events in Armenia.

With the aim of raising the visibility of its Facebook page, the ANP Secretariat made an attempt to rename its page, which was not allowed by Facebook, hence a new [Facebook page](#) has been created. The ANP Secretariat has also made the new Facebook page more active through sharing not only its Newsletter issues and ANP Statements, but a number of events, talks and activities by its member organizations or their representatives. In a short period of time the Facebook page has already acquired 487 followers.

**The ANP Secretariat** ensured effective working environment for its five working groups. The meetings of Working Groups were regularly held in the premises of one of the member NGOs. Secretariat assisted with the meeting venues, printed materials, translated and disseminated all the necessary materials and various communication issues. The ANP Secretariat ensured the active engagement of the ANP member CSOs representatives in the sectoral dialogue with the RA Government representatives as well as at meetings and consultations at the EU Delegation to Armenia. Ahead of the CSF Annual Assembly the ANP Secretariat assisted the ANP members with the procedure of obtaining visas to attend the event. The ANP Secretariat launched a process of update of all its member CSOs data. The process is still in progress. In the reporting period the ANP Secretariat received 13 new membership applications from CSOs. This was the result of proactive efforts of the ANP Country Facilitator, who reached out to some prominent human rights organisations, informed them of the Platform and its goals and invited them to join it. One member who had previously suspended its membership expressed a desire to resume membership in the Platform. New NGOs also joined the ANP from regions following the awareness raising visits paid by the ANP members.

Indicators:

Number of issues raised by the NP in country

- with country decision-makers - 2

**Judicial system of Armenia:** The ANP released a Statement calling on the RA National Assembly, RA President, RA Government, RA General Assembly of Judges, the judges and members of the RA Constitutional Court to take actions on the resolution of the Constitutional crisis in Armenia.

**Implementation of CEPA Article 366:** The ANP issued a Statement with a view to raising its objections on the need to comply with CEPA Article 366 requirements, which are transparency, inclusiveness, etc. when establishing the CEPA civil society platform.

- in the EU/EU Delegation/EU institutions and EU MSs if relevant - 2

**Judicial system of Armenia:** The ANP released a Statement calling on the RA National Assembly, RA President, RA Government, RA General Assembly of Judges, the judges and members of the RA Constitutional Court to take actions on the resolution of the Constitutional crisis in Armenia.

The issue of the crisis of the RA Constitutional Court and the need for deeper judicial reform has been raised at the level of EU institutions, including DG NEAR, DG Just, EEAS, etc. during the bilateral meetings held upon the request of the ANP Country Facilitator. The Coordinator of the Forum WG 1 also took part in those meetings.

**Implementation of CEPA Article 366:** The ANP issued a Statement with a view to raising its objections on the need to comply with CEPA Article 366 requirements, which are transparency, inclusiveness, etc. when establishing the CEPA civil society platform.

Apart from the statement, this issue has been discussed with EU both at the level of EU Delegation to Armenia, as well as the relevant EU institutions in Brussels, such as the DG NEAR, EEAS, and EESC.

Around 3 meetings were held with EESC on the above topic upon the initiative of the ANP Country Facilitator.

Number of trilateral consultations held with the country authorities and the EU Delegation jointly.

A meeting was arranged with the Head of the EU Delegation to Armenia and the RA Deputy Foreign Minister on the issue of the CEPA civil society platform. However, this meeting was postponed upon the Deputy Minister's request.

Issues raised by the NP having had an influence at the national level and explain what the result of it was (change of legislation, legislative proposal, change of established practice, access to decision-making etc.)

ANP members' recommendations during the sectoral discussions with RA Ministries: in particular issues related to agriculture and development of rural communities; transport; energy cooperation, including nuclear safety; taxation, environment, climate change actions, agriculture and development of rural communities, protection of consumers; justice, freedom and security; cooperation on migration, asylum and border management; movement of persons and readmission. Recommendations related to the RA Electoral Code, new law on mass media, as well as the reforms in the Judiciary were accepted or taken into consideration for further discussion at the Ministries.

- **at the EU level:** On June 14, 2019 the EaP CSF ANP issued a statement on the implementation of Article 366 of the RA-EU Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement (CEPA). In response to the Statement an official letter was addressed to the CSF Armenian National Platform with relevant feedback and proposals signed by Richard Tibbels, Head of Division on Eastern Partnership and Bilateral Relations at EEAS, Vasilis Maragos, Head of Unit on Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus and EaP at the European Commission, and Dilyana Slavova, President of External Relations Section at European Economic and Social Committee. The EU side proposed a more favourable arrangement for the formation of the CEPA platform, partially responding to the ANP concerns. The suggestion was that there would be a temporary arrangement of 4+2+2, where 4 would be the representatives of NGOs and the other 2+2, those from the business community and trade unions.

--Number of occasions on which the NP/WG was consulted by the EU institutions/EU delegation - **4**

- An invitation to meet with an EU mission to discuss the police reform in Armenia – September 2019;

- An invitation to participate in the EU-Armenia Justice Dialogue in Armenia – October 2019;

- An invitation to participate in the EU Consultations on the future of the EaP by the EU Delegation to Armenia - September 2019;

An invitation to participate in a meeting with the representatives of EU mission, including DG Just on the situation of the Constitutional Court – July 2019.

--Number of cases when recommendations were taken on board by the EU institutions/EU Delegation - **2**

Recommendations on the judicial reform, in particular the need to focus more on the preparation of quality judges in the short run;

Recommendation on the need to take measures to ensure legitimacy of the judiciary, including the Constitutional Court;

#### 4. Specify how many issues were raised at EaP Platform and panel meetings and WG meetings/other events by WG members

At the EU level - 1

At the EaP country level – up to 10

The ANP WG1 Coordinator participated in the WG1 meeting in Brussels on May 13-15, 2019. He was involved in the “Enabling environment for CSO’s” sub-group. As a group they prepared recommendations and sent them to the CSF Secretariat. His personal suggestion was to give more autonomy to the EU delegations in the EaP countries, which will enable them to better respond to the country specific needs.



The ANP WG1 Coordinator participated in the 2nd EaP e-Democracy Conference-Digitalization & Transformation: effect on democracy, held in Lviv on November 22, 2019, where he had the opportunity to share Armenian experience on municipal e-management system.

The WG 2 at its meetings discussed and approved a roadmap of Armenia's economic development, as well as discussed a project for utilizing solar energy; prospects to develop social entrepreneurship in rural areas; youth employment issues.

The WG3 member “Ecolur” NGO deals with radiation safety issues of the Armenian nuclear power plant, and also examines the socio-environmental situation in communities located in the affected area of the nuclear power plant, as well as organizes expert round tables on the safety of nuclear power plant. One of the meetings was held at WG3 level.

Key suggestions on the issue are the following: 1. Define special status for communities in the affected area of nuclear power plant 2. Assist in fulfilling CEPA requirements regarding the NPP. 3. Raise the level of preparedness of the population for possible emergency situations and radiation alarm signals. Based on these, a package of recommendations to the government is being prepared.

Another focus of the WG3 at country level has been the transport issues, in particular Armenia’s transport capacities and improvement of cycling infrastructure. The WG3 at national level also raised the issue of small hydropower plants. Their number exceeds 180 stations. They have already done great damage to river ecosystems.

The WG5 coordinator participated in two meetings in Armenia on the discussions on the establishment of CEPA civil society platform. On the second meeting with the Head of the EU Delegation to Armenia the ANP WG5 coordinator presented the challenges of the WG5 and the possible support from the EU. At the ANP initiative to form a database of the ANP member CSOs studies, the WG5 coordinator presented one research on the institutional development of social advertising in the RA.

Please specify what was the result of it (policy-makers have just acknowledged the problem/recommendation made or was the recommendation accepted and led to some action)

The recommendations and the suggestions have been acknowledged at both levels, however at the moment there are no concrete results to be presented.

**5. Only for WGs.** Please specify any advocacy events conducted by your WG.

WG3 initiatives regarding the CEPA requirements on the nuclear power plant.

**6. General info about the NP**

13 new CSOs have joined the Armenian National Platform, of which 8 became WG1 members, 2 –WG2 members, 2- WG3 members, and 1 – WG5 member. It is to note that most of the new member CSOs represent the regions of Armenia and submitted their applications of membership following the ANP members’ regional visits. WG1, however, remains dominant in its representation.

--adoption of new regulations (only for NPs),

At the June 7, 2019 ANP General Assembly supplements to the ANP Organizational Principles in line with the CSF reform were unanimously [adopted](#).

--cooperation or joint activities with other NPs/WG;

Cooperation with the Georgian National Platform directed at exchanging experience on signing memos of understanding with the Parliament and the cabinet. Work in progress.

--efforts made to increased visibility and better public perception of the NP and Forum in your country (only for NPs);

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--List positive mentions of the NP and the Forum and its activities in media

The events of the ANP in the reporting period were mostly dedicated to the ANP internal issues, hence no media outlets have been invited to cover the events. Only the statements of the ANP have been published by several leading Armenian online media.

- **number of issues raised by the NP having had an influence at the country level**

1. Within the frames of Government-Civil Society discussions on the implementation of CEPA Roadmap, a number of ANP member organizations prepared recommendations and submitted them for consideration. Several recommendations fully, several partially were accepted by relevant departments to be incorporated into the Roadmap. Detailed explanations were also provided for the refusals related to other recommendations. Recommendations related to the RA Electoral Code, new law on mass media, as well as the reforms in the Judiciary were accepted or taken into consideration for further discussion at the Ministries.

2. On July 5, 2019 the EaP CSF ANP issued a statement on the necessity of radical changes in the judicial system of Armenia with a special focus on the Constitutional Court crisis. The statement was published by several leading media once again pinpointing the urgency of resolving the crisis.

- **number of issues raised by the NP having had an influence at the EU level (EU delegation or European institutions)**

On June 14, 2019 the EaP CSF ANP issued a statement on the implementation of Article 366 of the RA-EU Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement (CEPA). In response to the Statement an official letter was addressed to the CSF Armenian National Platform with relevant feedback and proposals signed by Richard Tibbels, Head of Division on Eastern Partnership and Bilateral Relations at EEAS, Vasilis Maragos, Head of Unit on Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus and EaP at the European Commission, and Dilyana Slavova, President of External Relations Section at European Economic and Social Committee. The EU side proposed a more favourable arrangement for the formation of the CEPA platform, partially responding to the ANP concerns. The suggestion was that there would be a temporary arrangement of 4+2+2, where 4 would be the representatives of NGOs and the other 2+2, those from the business community and trade unions.

- **number of sectoral dialogues the NP members took part in**

The ANP Secretariat received 4 invitations from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Development to engage the ANP member CSOs in the Government-Civil society sectoral dialogue on the CEPA implementation Roadmap. Added to that the ANP Secretariat ensured the participation of the ANP CSOs members at the GSP+ meetings held at the EU Delegation to Armenia. For the last several years the ANP Secretariat has been communicating its member CSOs representatives to attend the GSP+ monitoring initiative meetings held at the EU Delegation premises to participate in the discussion and come up with comments and suggestions on the monitoring, as well as Armenia's GSP+ commitments in general. Currently preparations are underway for another three sectoral dialogues with the participation of relevant state agencies on three key issues – Amulsar mine problem, judiciary reforms, human rights.

- **number of studies/assessments/recommendations/policy briefs produced by the NP covering 20 deliverables for 2020**

The ANP Secretariat, as envisaged by its Grant proposal, will be announcing a call of studies/policy briefs/analytical pieces covering the 20 deliverables for 2020. The call is yet to be developed and reviewed by the ANP Executive Body members. The studies will be combined in a single document, similar to the ANP 2017 analytical pieces titled “[Agenda for Dialogue](#)” and disseminated to various stakeholders, including the RA authorities and EU institutions.

- **number of recommendations from the written input (studies/assessments/recommendations/policy briefs that were taken on-board by the decision-makers**

At least 5 recommendations of the ANP member CSOs were taken on-board by the state agencies following the submission of written recommendations for the CEPA implementation Roadmap. The recommendations of the ANP were also taken into consideration by EEAS, ECOSOC and the EU Delegation to Armenia, and the further discussions on the establishment of the EU-Armenia Civil Society Platform were conducted taking the former into account.

- **number of cases when the NP alerted relevant stakeholders in the EaP and the EU on the negative developments concerning the operating environment for civil society and the cases of civil society activists' harassment in the country; Number of cases when the input was acted upon by the decision-makers**

None

- **number of internal processes reformed/updated/developed**

At the June 7, 2019 ANP Assembly supplements to the ANP Organizational Principles in line with the CSF reform were unanimously adopted. The ANP Secretariat also initiated the formation of the ANP Supervising Commission, whose three members were elected via online voting.

- **number of actions to ensure gender-mainstreaming in the NP and its activities**

The most vivid example of gender mainstreaming is the fact that for the first in its history the CSF Armenian Delegates elected a woman as CSF Armenia Country Facilitator. Gender equality remains in the focus of the ANP and is mainstreamed in all the activities of the Platform. The Platform ensures that gender balance be maintained in all its initiatives, including, assemblies, meetings, discussions, researches, etc.

- **expansion of the NP membership indicating more balanced membership across WGs and growing expertise under all thematic areas of the EaP; number of new members**

13 new CSOs have joined the Armenian National Platform, of which 8 became WG1 members, 2 –WG2 members, 2- WG3 members, and 1 – WG5 member. It is to note that most of the new member CSOs represent the regions of Armenia and submitted their applications of membership following the ANP members’ regional visits. WG1, however, remains dominant in its representation.

- **number of members per WG and per priorities of 4 EaP Platforms and panels**

Starting from the month of September the ANP Secretariat initiated a process of the ANP member CSOs’ database update. Given the total number of the organisations, the process is not completed yet. However, as of the data available and the information already reviewed, the picture is the following: WG1 – 90 members, WG 2 – 41, WG3- 27, WG4 – 60, WG5 – 35.

- **balanced expertise, along the priorities of 4 EaP Platforms and panels, of delegates selected for each Annual Assembly**

The ANP has been always attaching importance to the balanced representation of the Armenian Delegates at the Annual Assemblies in line with the proportion of representatives from each working group. The ANP Secretariat follows that the balance is maintained in all the elections.

- **creation of an effective mechanism dealing with complaints from NP members explicitly stating how the conflict of interest situations will be avoided.**

The ANP Secretariat established the ANP Supervising Commission, whose three members were elected by the Secretariat members. The Supervising Commission will conduct supervision of the financial, economic activities of the ANP Secretariat and its governing bodies, as well as ensure that there are no conflicts of interest in the activities organized within ANP. Added to that the ANP has also its Ethics Council, which has proved to be a body efficiently dealing with ethics violations within the Platform.

## **8. How would you evaluate your NP/WG activities this year?**

The overall aim of the Project enhancing the contribution of the Armenian National Platform of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum to the EU-Armenia cooperation through support to its

Secretariat activities has been accomplished throughout the reporting period. This is manifested in the number of roundtables with relevant ministries and ANP member CSOs representatives on the CEPA implementation Roadmap, and a number of recommendations taken into consideration by state agencies. Another key issue has been the establishment of the EU-Armenia Civil Society Platform envisaged by CEPA, on which the ANP members have carried out continuous consultations with a variety of stakeholders, representing the civil society, trade unions, employer organizations, as well as EU institutions. The ANP Secretariat has also launched a series of regional awareness raising events, which have not only given insights on the developments with regard to CEPA, the 20 Deliverables for 2020, but also the prospects of the EaP CSF and its Armenian National Platform and the EaP priorities. Another noteworthy activity is the sectoral dialogue with the RA Ministries on the CEPA Implementation Roadmap.

There have been no obstacles hampering the activities of the ANP. The only problem has been the delay with the allocation of funds for small projects, which is currently in progress.