

## **EaP CSF Written Input to Platform 2, November 2020**

The input provided is based on an online consultation with EaP CSF members, as well as expert contributions of EaP CSF representatives to discussions at the EaP Platform 2 meeting and the three associated panels organised online over the course of October-November 2020.

[Short paragraph summarising EaP CSF expectations and priorities for the new EaP deliverables in the area of economic development and market opportunities - perhaps Maksym and Olga, and indeed Laura as incoming EU coordinator for WG2, could provide their ideas for the key aspects which should be highlighted here]

### **1. Together for resilient, sustainable and integrated economies**

#### **Trade and economic integration**

Deliverables:

- Support growth of exports of goods (excluding hydrocarbon and other raw materials) and services from EaP countries to EU countries
- Reduce technical barriers to trade (TBTs) and simplify sanitary/phytosanitary notification procedures to facilitate greater intra-EaP and EU-EaP trade
- Establish a platform for the exchange of experiences in best practices, improving reaction on crisis, improving the resilience of SMEs and of the economy
- Intensify cooperation between EaP countries and avoid disruptions
- Work towards greater integration of trade in services, including financial, digital, and transport services. For example, an EU-EaP Digital Union could ensure greater trade flows in digital services
- EaP should adopt the EU Data Interoperability Framework
- Create and effectively implement efficient competition legislation and establish institutional mechanisms dealing with competitiveness for SMEs
- Ensure fair treatment of SMEs in the EaP within the existing Association and Partnership and Cooperation Agreements
- Update the existing DCFTAs and other trade agreements to reflect changes in EU policies and legislation. Areas requiring particular attention include improving formats for institutional cooperation, further reducing and removing trade barriers (for example, by ending quota restrictions on agriculture and food processing), and incorporating aspects related to new flagship initiatives such as the European Green Deal

Benchmarks:

- By 2023, EaP exports of goods and services are 5% higher than in 2020
- By 2025, EaP exports of goods and services are 10% higher than in 2020

- By 2022, elaborate an action plan for the establishment of an EU-EaP Digital Union, which may or may not consist of EaP countries' accession to (or improved access to) the EU's Digital Single Market
- By the end of 2021, agree a clear roadmap for the phased removal of agricultural and food processing quotas for the AA/DCFTA countries by 2025

### **Investment and access to finance (i.e. SMEs' access to finance)**

#### Deliverables:

- Greater loan collateral
- Creation of Development of Credit Authorities (DCA)
- Creation of the Loan Guarantee Funds
- Maintain and expand support for SMEs, including by ensuring a continued SME liquidity support fund. Particular attention should be paid to micro-enterprises and start-ups
- Introduce proper insolvency legislation and execution. Companies should have the possibility to close the business easily and have a second chance.

#### Benchmarks:

- Improved access to loan capital as it is in EU Countries

### **Investing in people (i.e. education, employability, entrepreneurship, research and innovation)**

#### Deliverables:

- Ensure women's effective participation in economic development
- Create a common labour market cooperation platform for the three AA countries
- Strengthen social dialogue at all levels and the role of social partners in the EAP decision-making process
- Focus on the social component in the EAP priorities and overcoming poverty
- Creation of a thematic platform for WG5
- Promote gender equality, counter discrimination and extremism
- Strengthen collective and contractual regulation of labour relations to preserve and develop labour potential
- Improve legal regulations and protections for self-employed people
- Raise companies' awareness around labour safety standards and best practices, and support SMEs in the implementation of preventive and control measures.

Benchmarks:

- Greater use of gender budgeting in business investment decisions, at the level of policy, strategy and activities

4. **Together for a resilient digital transformation**

**Digital infrastructure**

Deliverables:

- Improve access to high-speed internet
- Improve e-commerce legislation and give assistance to SMEs to do e-commerce and be present on the internet
- Harness digital solutions for more efficient border management, as a means of boosting cross-border trade and cooperation
- Take active steps to facilitate digital transport corridors among the EaP countries, and between the EU and EaP region. A ‘Two Seas’ digital transport corridor between the Black Sea and Baltic Sea could be an option worth exploring
- Facilitate the further development of e-Commerce and e-Trade, including through the harmonisation of national legal frameworks governing these areas with EU law (or, where these are lacking, the provision of technical support for the drafting of such legislation)

Benchmarks:

- 60% of households should have high-speed internet across the 6 EaP countries by 2023
- 80% of households should have high-speed internet across the 6 EaP countries by 2024
- 90% of households should have high-speed internet across the 6 EaP countries by 2025

**eGovernance**

Deliverables:

- Improve Digital Public Services in the EaP
- Adopt the EU Payment Directive and ensure debt collection via courts and private bailiffs is working systematically and public procurement is paid on time
- Implement EU Open Data Directive 2019/1024 and prioritise the ‘open by design and by default’ approach

Benchmarks:

- EaP countries have a list of high-value datasets according to EU Open Data Directive 2019/1024. These datasets are available for re-use in machine-readable format, via suitable APIs and, where relevant, as a bulk download by 2022.

## **Digital economy and innovation**

### Deliverables:

- Effective digitisation of market control system for food safety
- Support women's increased participation in digital economy innovation development
- Continue to develop the digital economy and society with the aim to enhance economic and business opportunities and strengthen trust and security
- Create a common roaming space
- Development of ICT innovation and start-up ecosystems
- Set up an e-skills and e-competence framework
- Develop e-trade and e-health
- Expand the availability of digital skills through the education and training system, but also prepare experts who are willing and able to teach it
- Up-skill and re-skill EaP labour force with the digital skills they need to remain productive in the jobs they have and to become employable for new ones
- Digitisation of Cultural Heritage – harness the opportunities provided by information and communication technologies for the collection, access, application and visualisation of data. EaP countries have a very rich cultural heritage that embodies our past and inspires us with a sense of a shared history and identity. Digital transformation can play an essential role in enabling cultural experiences, knowledge creation, preservation, and use and re-use of cultural heritage across borders. Digitized cultural objects moreover unlock the potential for broader societal, cohesive and economic benefits of sectors such as tourism, education and creative sectors
- Improve awareness-raising and teaching of digital skills in the educational sector
- Provide training in digital skills for the population, with the support of a tailored digital competences framework for the EaP countries
- Invite EaP SMEs to participate in and benefit from the digitalisation efforts of the EU

### Benchmarks:

- By 2023 the concept of market control system for food safety is available
- By 2025 market control system for food safety is available for its users
- Female-led innovations receive investment on equal terms in male-dominated sectors
- More young people are educated and trained for digital professions so that we can create a large pool of talented young digital professionals, with increased female participation, who are work ready and can take up the growing number of unfilled vacancies for ICT professionals
- The general level of digital skills among all citizens has improved by 2025, so that they can play an active role in modern society, strengthening social inclusion

## Cybersecurity

### Deliverables:

- Support the creation of robust cybersecurity and cyber-resilience strategies in all 6 EaP countries. Where these already exist, provide technical support for refining these strategies and ensuring their full implementation
- Facilitate the harmonisation of EaP countries' cybersecurity legal frameworks with EU standards and best practices
- Support the creation of Cyber-Security Incident Response Teams (CSIRT) in each EaP country, and the development of their work programmes and action plans. Facilitate cooperation between the CSIRTs (including those of the EU member states) to improve the region's overall cyber resilience

### Benchmarks:

- By 2022, a clear action plan for the establishment of a Cyber-Security Incident Response Team in each EaP country by 2025 is in place
- By 2025, each EaP country has a fully operational CSIRT
- By 2025, the newly-established CSIRTs have developed clear work programmes and action plans for their own operation, and for structured cooperation with their counterparts in the other EaP countries and the EU member states.