

## Eastern Partnership Platform 4 "Mobility and People-to-People Contacts"

Tuesday, 12 November 2019

### DISCUSSION PAPER

This year, the Eastern Partnership (EaP) reached its **10-year milestone**. A dedicated **high-level conference**, organised in Brussels on 14 May, brought together key actors which have shaped Eastern Partnership policy over the last decade. The conference confirmed the success of the Partnership in achieving concrete **results for citizens**, but also recognised the **challenges** that remain.

After 10 years of close cooperation, the joint work of all partners is not finished. Implementation of reforms and delivery of tangible results for citizens building on the **"20 Deliverables for 2020" agenda** will remain a key priority. However, with 2020 approaching, it is equally important to look critically at the challenges and to reflect on how to ensure that the **EaP remains relevant and inclusive beyond 2020**.

In view of this, President Jean-Claude Juncker and Commissioner for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations Johannes Hahn announced a **broad and inclusive structured consultation** process to reflect on the future strategic direction of the Eastern Partnership and a new – post 2020 – generation of deliverables. In addition, the European Council has invited the Commission and the HRVP to present by early 2020 a set of long-term **policy objectives in the Eastern Partnership**.

In this context, the EaP Platform meetings scheduled to take place in November and December this year will **take stock of progress**, present the preliminary results of the consultation process, its possible implications for the post 2020 Eastern Partnership policy and jointly brainstorm on the **future agenda beyond 2020**.

The main objective of this Platform 4 meeting is thus to have an **open discussion** with main counterparts, based on the results of the consultation process and the current agenda of 20 Deliverables, on possible **activities beyond 2020 that will continue to deliver to citizens**.

The discussion should be guided by the following **guiding questions**:

- What works and should be continued?
- What can be improved?
- What we should do that is new?

The outcome of the Platform 4 meeting will contribute to the **development of objectives and activities** pertaining to mobility and people-to-people contacts **beyond 2020** in form of a Joint Staff Working Document. This will later feed into the discussions at the EaP Senior Officials Meeting (SOM), Foreign Affairs Council and the EaP Annual Foreign Affairs Ministerial meeting, in view to prepare the **Eastern Partnership Summit** expected to take place under the Croatian Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

### Session 1: Strategic priorities beyond 2020 - youth, education, culture, employment

This session will be dedicated to a discussion about youth, education, culture, employment beyond 2020.

*Guiding questions:*

- What were the **main achievements** under Deliverable 18-19 and **key lessons learned**?
- What were the **key issues raised in the consultation** on youth, education and culture?
- How to best **address deliverables that still need further push**, to strengthen quality and relevance of education and training, to foster actions for skills development, youth employability and address challenges of young people not engaged in education, employment and training?
- What can we do more and/or better to **support societies and empower everyone, particularly the youth**?
- How to ensure effective use of **technology in teaching and learning** processes?
- What are your **post-2020 expectations and vision** in these areas?

### Session 2: Strategic priorities beyond 2020 – research and innovation

This session will be dedicated to a discussion about research and innovation.

*Guiding questions:*

- What were the **main achievements** under Deliverable 20 and **key lessons learned**?
- What were the **key issues raised in the consultation** on research and innovation?
- How to best build on the already existing results and **enhance research and innovation cooperation** between the EU and EaP and among EaP countries beyond 2020?
- How can we work together to enhance **smart specialization**?
- How can we work together to support **technology entrepreneurship** and the **commercialisation of research results**? What are your **post-2020 expectations and vision** in these areas?

### Session 3: Strategic priorities beyond 2020 – migration, mobility and integrated border management

This session will be dedicated to a discussion about migration, mobility and integrated border management.

*Guiding questions:*

- What were the **main achievements** under Deliverable 17 and **key lessons learned**?
- What were the **key issues raised in the consultation** on **migration, mobility and IBM**?
- What is needed to keep up smooth **implementation of visa free travel and achievements made in the visa liberalisation process**?
- How can we work together to ensure mutually beneficial cooperation in the area of **circular migration and pre-empting brain drain**?
- What are the key elements for the future cooperation in the area of **migration management and integrated border management**?
- What are your **post-2020 expectations and vision** in these areas?