

EAP CSF re-granting scheme

Final Narrative Report



Project title: Eastern Partnership Think Tank Forum 2017 -
<http://www.ipre.md/eapttf2017/>

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2. Georgian Institute for Strategic Studies (GISS) – Irakli Porchkhidze, Vice-President

24 November 2017

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1. Overall description of project implementation, changes in timeline and reasons for change

The Institute for European Policies and Reforms (IPRE), in partnership with other two renowned think-tanks from Ukraine and Georgia, the New Europe Center (Kiev) and Georgian Institute for Strategic Studies (Tbilisi), have organized the EaP Think Tank Forum in Chisinau on 21-23 September 2017, in partnership and with the support of the EAP Civil Society Forum (under Re-granting Scheme 2017, funded by the EU and NED) and with the co-funding offered by KAS under the current project as per the Cooperation Agreement between KAS and IPRE.

All the objectives of the Project have been achieved. The EaP Think Tank Forum was organized and attended by 72 participants (initially planned 25 participants).

The Policy Recommendations for the EaP Summit were developed, published on 20 October 2017 and promoted with EAP and EU stakeholders, including during the Advocacy trip on 6-9 November 2017.

No changes in the project implementation have been admitted.

Thus, the overall aim, 3 specific objectives of the Project were achieved. All Outcomes of the project were delivered.

All relevant information about the EaP TTF (Program, List of participants, List of Speakers, Photos and Videos and the Policy recommendations to the EaP Summit) is available on the EaP TTF landing web-page: www.ipre.md/eapttf2017

All the payments related to the project implementation, including to the partner organizations (IWP and GISS) have been made by IPRE. Out of the total planned budget 19.950 EUR, IPRE has spent, including indirect costs a total amount of 19.895,24 EUR eligible costs i.e. with a total absorption ratio of 99.9%.

A detailed Financial Report on the project is enclosed.

2. Project Activities and Outputs

Projected Outcome 1: The EaP CSF vision towards EaP Summit in Brussels strengthened by a set of Policy Recommendations from EaP and EU think tanks' experts

Activity 1 => Output 1: EaP Think Tank Forum Policy Recommendations for the EaP Summit in Brussels issued and promoted.

- The Project experts (Iulian Groza, IPRE; Leo Litra, New Europe Center; Irakli Porchikhidze, GISS) prepared a Draft Policy Paper that included a brief review of the EaP state of play and a set of draft policy recommendations for the Brussels Eastern Partnership Summit. The Background Paper was distributed for review in advance to the participants of the EaP Think Tank Forum (EaP TTF) held during 21-23 September 2017 as per project plan. The final draft Paper was placed on the EaP Think Tank Forum landing web page: <http://www.ipre.md/eapttf2017/Background%20Paper.pdf>.
- The draft Policy Recommendations to the EaP Summit was discussed and improved during the Chişinău EaP TTF, attended by 72 experts representing the think-tank community from all six EaP countries and EU member states.
- On the 20th October 2017, the final version of the EaP TTF Policy Recommendations to the EaP was published on: <http://www.ipre.md/eapttf2017/>
- At the same time 200 hard copies of the Policy Recommendations was printed with the support of KAS.
- The Policy Recommendations have been distributed via email to over 300 addressees in the EU and EaP countries (experts and officials from EEAS, European Commission, Members of the European Parliament (EURONEST), officials and experts from six EaP countries.
- The recommendation has been also promoted during the EaP CSF Assembly in Tallinn (24-25 October 2017) and the Advocacy visit to Brussels (6-9 November 2017).

Projected Outcome 2: A community for EaP Think Tanks created and linked to the European network of experts.

Activity 2.1 => Output 2.1: EaP Think Tank Forum organized during 21-23 September 2017 in Chişinău

The EaP Think Tank Forum which gathered 72 experts from EU and all six EaP countries (over 100 invitations were sent). At the same time 38 participants of the forum took part in the discussions of the four panels of the Forum as speakers, insuring a balance of representation between EU and six EaP countries representation. The overall aim of the Forum was to create a platform for new partnerships between the think-tank community from the EU and six EaP countries in order to generate a maximum impact on their research, policy making and advocacy efforts in promoting European values in our region.

During the inaugural sessions of the Forum, moderated by Iulian Groza, Executive Director at IPRE, Chisinau, the opening remarks were delivered by Ms. Daniela Morari, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of Moldova; Amb. Peter Michalko, Ambassador, Head of the EU Delegation in Chisinau; Ms. Natalia Yerashevich, Director of the EaP CSF Secretariat; Ms. Polina Ojog, Programme Coordinator, Konrad Adenauer Foundation, Chisinau and Mr. Ion Manole, Executive Director, Promo-Lex, Chisinau.

The first discussion panel of the Forum offered the opportunity for an exchange of best practices and lessons learned from existing think-tank partnerships in Europe both, at regional and European level. During the discussions, the panellists have also outlined the main opportunities to be addressed by the research community in the EU and the EaP countries. Discussions also introduced ideas how to add value to the EaP Civil Society Forum in building capacity of policy research and advocacy activities by strengthening think-tank – NGOs partnerships. The panel was moderated by Mr. Balazs Jarabik, Non-resident, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Brussels, and it featured the following speakers: Dr. Maria Golubeva, member of the EaP CSF Steering Committee, Brussels; Mr. Hennadiy Maksak, PRISM, Kiev; Dr. Steven Blockmans, Head of EU Foreign Policy at CEPS, Brussels; Ms. Valentina Eigner, WeBuildEurope.eu, Vienna; and Dr. Olena Prystayko, Executive Director, Ukrainian Think Tanks Liaison Office in Brussels.

The second panel addressed the challenges and perspectives for the future of the EaP. Thus, the discussions focused largely on the main achievements and set backs of the EU's EaP Policy, analysing the ways how the EU and EaP countries could work together to strengthen resilience and secure a sustainable Europeanisation process in the region, taking into account as well different political aspirations of the countries concerned. The session was moderated by Mr. Dmytro Shulga, Director of the European initiative programme at the International Renaissance Foundation, Kiev, and had the following contributors: Dr. Oleksandr Sushko, International Renaissance Foundation, Kiev; Dr. Igor Munteanu, Executive Director, IDIS-Viitorul, Chisinau; Mr. Zaur Shiryev, Academy Associate, Chatham House, London; Dr. Stepan Grigoryan, Chairman of the Board, Analytical Centre on Globalization and Regional Cooperation, Yerevan; Dr. Kerry Longhurst, Professor, Jean Monnet, Collegium Civitas, Warsaw; and James Nixey, Head of Russia and Eurasia Program, Chatham House, London.

During the third panel, the participants have analysed the 20 EaP deliverables for 2020, which were endorsed in June 2017 by the EaP Foreign Ministerial Meeting. The experts of the Forum have assessed if the suggested EaP deliverables are ambitious enough and resonate with the expectations of the EaP countries, looking beyond 2020. Dr. Kataryna Wolczuk, Associate Fellow, Chatham House, London has moderated the interventions of the following experts: Mr. Denis Cenuşă, Program Director, Expert Group, Chişinău; Mr. Richard Giragosian, Founding Director, Regional Studies Center, Yerevan; Ms. Dovilė Šukytė, EESC, EaP CSF Steering Committee, Vilnius; Dr. Stanislav Secieru, Senior Associate Fellow, EUISS, Paris and Mr. Paul Ivan, Senior Policy Analyst, European Policy Centre (EPC), Brussels.

The concluding panel of the Forum has reviewed the draft Policy Recommendations of the Forum for the EaP Summit in Brussels, presented by Mr. Leonid Litra, the Senior Research Fellow, New Europe Center from Kiev. The panel has gathered contributions from Ms. Iskra Kirova, Senior Policy Analyst, Open Society European Policy Institute, Brussels; Mr. Ivane Chkhikvadze, EU Integration Program Coordinator,

OSGF, Tbilisi; Mr. Uladzislau Vialichka, Director General, International Consortium “EuroBelarus”, Minsk; Mr. Boris Navasardian, President, Yerevan Press Club; Mr. Ziya Guliyev, Chair of the Board, Center for Legal Initiatives, Baku. The discussions were moderated by Mr. Irakli Porchkhidze, Vice-President, Georgian Institute for Strategic Initiatives, Tbilisi. All contributions during the event will be used to finalise the Policy Recommendations of the EaP think Tank Forum for the upcoming EaP Summit in Brussels from late November.

After the forum a networking dinner was held in the evening of 22 September 2017, where over 50 participants of the Forum participated and had discussed in a Chatham House rules setting with Ms. Daniela Morari, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of Moldova; Amb. Peter Michalko, Ambassador, Head of the EU Delegation in Chisinau.

After the event, a group of think-tank experts from have reflected on the need to insure the sustainability of the action, by planning to support the activities of the EaP Think Tank Forum as a platform of interaction among think-tankers from the EU and EU. Thus, Civitas Colegium (Warsaw), IPRE, New Europe Center and GISS are aiming to organise during the year 2018 a new event in the format of EaP TTF that would focus on more specific topics of the EaP with the objective to review the implementation of 20 EaP deliverables of the EaP and start reflections on what should be the new targets for the EaP beyond 2020.

Activity 2.2=> Output 2.2. Draft Policy Recommendation for the EaP Summit has been reviewed and updated.

The Background Paper¹ prepared before the EaP Think Tank Forum in Chisinau, that included draft Policy Recommendations for the EaP Summit, have been reviewed, discussed, improved and updated. After the Forum, on 20th October 2017, the Policy Recommendations have been published, distributed to key stakeholders in the EU and EaP Countries and placed on the EaP TTF landing webpage².

Outcome 3: The Policy Recommendations for the EaP Summit promoted to Brussels key Stakeholders

Activity 3 => Output 3: An Advocacy Visit to Brussels to promote the recommendations was organized on 6-9.11.2017.

During 6-9 November 2017 an Advocacy visit to Brussels was organised by IPRE, New Europe Center, GISS in partnership with the EaP CSF Secretariat. All the costs related to the visit were co-funded by KAS. The programme of the visit included:

- Meetings members of the European Parliament:
 - Ms. Rebecca Harms, MEP (G/EFA), Chair of EU DEL to EURONEST
 - Mr. Andi Cristea, MEP (S&D), Vice-Chair of AFET
 - Dr. Laima ANDRIKIENE, MEP (EPP), Member INTA and SEDE

- Meetings with at EEAS and DG NEAR (COM):
 - Mr. Dirk Schuebel, Head of Division, Eastern Partnership: Bilateral, EEAS
 - Mr. Victor Bojkov, Head of Unit, Dir C., DG NEAR, European Commission

¹ <http://www.ipre.md/eapttf2017/Background%20Paper.pdf>

² <http://www.ipre.md/eapttf2017/>



- Meeting with COEST representatives (13 EU Member states were represented at a working breakfast hosted by the Lithuanian Permanent Representation to the EU).



During the meetings project experts (Iulian Groza, IPRE; Leo Litra, New Europe Center; Irakli Porchikidze, GISS) accompanied by Vera Richakova, Advocacy Manager, EaP CSF Secretariat have presented the main findings of the EaP Think Tank Forum and promoted the Policy Recommendations of the Paper.

At the same time, the EaP CSF Secretariat hosted on the 6 November 2017 a Workshop for Brussels-based experts that was attended by 14 participants.

3. Project Impact and evaluation

All project objectives and corresponding outcomes, were met by the following outputs of the project:

1. The **first EaP Think Tank Forum (EaPTTF) was organized** involving over 70 experts, including 38 participants representing think-tank community and CSO from the EU and all six EaP Countries. The event offered an opportunity for bridging among think-tankers and CSOs representatives. Follow-up activities to the EaP TTF are already being discussed aiming to ensure the sustainability of the action. As a result of the forum new project ideas for bridging think-tanks from EU and EaP countries are initiated. IPRE, New Europe Center and GISS are planning to continue the partnership as the initiators of the EaP TTF and connect with partner think-tanks from the EU in new projects. As IPRE is concerned as of 1st DEC 2017 a new 2-year project shall be initiated with the support of OSI is being initiated entitled „Establishing Policy Bridges with the EU – Europeanisation beyond Process”. The project shall build on the results of the EaP TTF in connecting think-tanks from the EU and Moldova.
2. For the event a Booklet of the **EaPTTF** has been produced and published that included the programme, List of speakers with relevant Bios and the List of participants with e-mails.
3. After the **EaPTTF** an on-line **evaluation survey** was distributed via emails to all participants of the EaPTTF (available here: <https://goo.gl/Li4GUw>). 13% of the participants have responded and filled in the Survey. 88% of the respondents mentioned that the EaP TTF should be continued. The majority of the participants considered the EaP Think Forum organized good or very good. Detailed responses are available here: <https://goo.gl/eEgJqu>.
4. **The EaP TTF Policy Recommendations for the EaP Summit have been produced** as a result of a multi-staged review process, that included consultations with the EaP Think Tank Forum Participants, discussions and inputs from EaP Think Tank Forum meeting.
5. The promotion of the project results – the key output – the Policy Recommendations for the EaP Summit have been promoted according to the following **Advocacy plan**:
 - Distribution of the EaP TTF Policy recommendations was done via email to over 300 key experts and officials from the EU and EaP governments (the list is attached to the report);
 - Press-releases were issued and distributed to promote the results of the EaP TTF and the Policy Recommendations.
 - The Policy Recommendations were placed on the webpages of the Project partners and on the special EaPTTF landing webpage (www.ipre.md/eapttf2017)
 - 200 hard copies of the Policy Recommendations were published with the support of KAS and presented on number of occasions related to EaP (in Tallinn, Brussels, London, Chisinau, Kiev and Tbilisi)
 - Promotion of the recommendation during a special advocacy trip co-funded by KAS and co-organized by Project partners and with the support of the EaP CSF Secretariat and Lithuanian MFA.
6. **The Advocacy trip to Brussels** – provided a good occasion to promote the EaP TTF Policy Recommendations with key Brussels stakeholders 3 weeks before the EaP Summit. On top of key recommendations from the EaP TTF have also included in the EaP CSF Declaration to the Summit issued one month before the Summit.

4. Gender mainstreaming

During the project implementation, in particular as the organization of the EaP Think-Tank Forum is concerned, the gender balance was one of the key criteria that have been considered. The gender balance ratio was: (1) for the participants of the Form – **2/2.5 (44% - women and 56% - men)**, (2) for the speakers on the panels – **1/3 (33% - women and 66% - men)**.

5. Visibility and Outreach

- The Project has also developed its own **branding book**, which followed as well all key requirements under the Visibility Guide. In addition, all visibility materials and products of the project have been reviewed in advance with the EaP CSF Secretariat.
- In order to maximize the outreach and visibility of the project a special landing **webpage** was developed and begun to be operational one 10 days before the EaP TTF was held (www.ipre.md/eapttf2017).
- All materials and products of the project were distributed via social network i.e. <https://twitter.com/IPREMD> and <https://www.facebook.com/IPREMoldova>.
- Photos from the EaP TTF were published on <https://www.flickr.com/photos/152065152@N07/sets/72157688747114415/>
- The EaP Think Tank Forum meeting was broadcasted on-line in-kind by www.privesc.eu an online broadcasting platform. The link to the on-line broadcasting was placed on: www.ipre.md/eapttf2017 and www.eap-csf.eu.
- The background paper and the final Policy Recommendation for the EaP Summit were published on the webpages of the Project Partners and on the landing webpage.
- An Op-Ed was also produced based on the Policy Recommendations and published on „Европейская правда” an Ukrainian news portal: <http://www.eurointegration.com.ua/rus/articles/2017/10/25/7072732/>.
- A brief outreach assessment is presented below:
 - EaPTTF webpage: www.ipre.md/eapttf2017 - was accessed by **1.453 unique** visitors and was viewed in total **4.849 times**.
 - The EaPTTF online broadcasting available here: <https://goo.gl/NLkoKc> - had an outreach of over **102.000 viewers**.
 - The EaPTTF was viewed live on the Facebook account of IPRE (<https://www.facebook.com/IPREMoldova>) by **62.000 viewers**.
 - In total **3 Press-Releases** were issued in RO RU and ENG (about the EaPTTF and issued of Policy recommendations).
 - Over **35 media appearances** related to the results of the EaP TTF and the promotion of the Policy Recommendations were registered (the Media outreach report is enclosed)
 - The Policy recommendations were distributed via email to over **300 stakeholders** from the EU and EaP countries governments.
 - Over **190 printed publications** of the EaP TTF Policy Recommendations for the EaP Summit were distributed on different event occasions related to EaP in Tallinn, Brussels, London, Kiev, Chisinau.
 - During the Advocacy visit to Brussels the EaP TTF Project experts met with 21 EU officials (MEPS, EEAS, DG NEAR, COEST EU MS), 15 think-tank Brussels-based experts.

6. Relevance for EaP CSF

- Project team has consulted throughout the project implementation with EaP CSF Secretariat on all stages.
- Regular briefings about the project implementation was send via skype-calls and emails have been presented to the EaP CSD Secretariat.
- Mid-Term report and financial report on the project implementation was submitted in due time in august 2017.
- Project team has involved and benefited from continues support from the EaP CSD Secretariat in the project implementation (preparations for the EaPTTF in Chisinau, review of the draft Background Paper and Policy Recommendations, Advocacy trip to Brussels).
- Representatives of the EaP CFS Secretariat participated at the EaP TTF and in the meetings during the Advocacy Trip to Brussels
- Project experts have participated at the EaP CSD Assembly in Tallinn and on that occasion have promoted the Policy Recommendations for the EaP Summit
- Project experts have contributed to the drafting exercise of the EaP CSF Declaration for the EaP Summit.
- Representatives for the EaP CSF Steering Committee have participated at the EaP TTF held in Chişinău.
- During the Advocacy Trip to Brussels, EaP CSF Secretariat has kindly hosted on 6 November 2017 a Workshop for Brussels-based experts.

7. Project Sustainability Outlook

- Given the results of the project and feedback from the participants at the EaPTTF, the project partners have initiated discussions about the continuity of the EaP TTF format during the next years.
- Discussions with Civitas Collegium from Poland are being held to organize in 2018 at least one event under the umbrella of the EaPTTF.
- Project partners are considering to apply for the next year EaP CSF Call for projects under the re-Granting scheme.
- New Europe Center is considering to take the lead in the application process.
- IPRE is envisaging to held at least one event related to the EaPTTF under the new project „Establishing Policy Bridges with the EU – Europeanisation beyond Process” supported by OSI.
- The network of over 70 experts representing the think-tank and CSO community from the EU and EaP countries, created as a result of the project shall be further explored by project partners to generate new joint projects with participation of EU and EaP think-tanks.

8. Attachments

1. All relevant attachments are available on the drobox.com link:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/mleootgxhuoj9z2/AACZpSetan0q-NOVHJGEOJA5a?dl=0>

2. Appendix - MEDIA OUTREACH

EaP Think Tank Forum 21-23 September 2017

Moldova.org	http://www.moldova.org/la-chisinau-va-fi-organizat-premiera-forumul-parteneriatului-estic-al-centrelor-de-cercetare/
Online-broadcasting go the EaP TTF	Privesc.eu, gazetadesud.md, www.eurotv.md , ies.md, glasul.md, zugo.md, termocom.md, diez.md, unimedia.info, telegraph.md, www.infotag.md , evenimentul.md, agora.md, www.timpul.md , eap-csf.eu
IPRE	http://ipre.md/2017/09/25/participantii-la-eap-think-tank-forum-au-elaborat-un-set-recomandari-pentru-viitorul-summit-al-parteneriatului-estic/
politics.md	https://www.politics.md/?article=19484
Moldova 1	http://trm.md/ro/social/moldova-gazduie-ste-forumul-parteneriatului-estic-al-centrelor-de-cercetare/
Moldova9.com	http://moldova9.com/2017/09/25/video-participantii-la-eap-think-tank-forum-au-elaborat-un-set-recomandari-pentru-viitorul-summit-al-parteneriatului-estic/
Zugo.md	https://zugo.md/article/la-chisinau-va-fi-organizat-in-premiera-forumul-parteneriatului-estic-al-centrelor-de-cercetare_20628.htm
Deutsche Welle	http://www.dw.com/ro/parteneriatul-estic-%C3%AEntre-pragmatism-%C8%99i-scepticism/a-40688238
Telegraph	http://telegraph.md/la-chisinau-va-fi-organizat-in-premiera-forumul-parteneriatului-estic-al-centrelor-de-cercetare/
Europa Liberă	https://www.europalibera.org/a/28730764.html
Noi.md	http://www.noi.md/md/news_id/244736

Policy Recommendations for the EaP Summit – 20 October – 7 November 2017

IPRE	http://ipre.md/2017/10/24/28-de-recomandari-pentru-summit-ul-parteneriatului-estic-de-la-bruxelles/
Ziarul Național	http://www.ziarulnational.md/un-grup-de-experti-au-formulat-28-de-recomandari-pentru-summit-ul-parteneriatului-estic-de-la-bruxelles/
TVR Moldova	http://tvrmdomoda.md/actualitate/video-societatea-civila-vine-cu-propuneri-pentru-summitul-parteneriatului-estic/
ЕвроПравда	http://www.eurointegration.com.ua/rus/articles/2017/10/25/7072732/
infoeuropa.md	http://infoeuropa.md/cel-de-al-treilea-summit-parteneriatului-estic-de-la-vilnius/
Moldova 1	http://www.trm.md/ro/moldova1/agenda-summitului-parteneriatului-estic-subiectul-emisiunii-vector-european/
Radio Moldova	http://trm.md/ro/loc-de-dialog/loc-de-dialog-din-7-noiembrie-2017/

Advocacy Trip to Bruxelles din 6-9 November 2017

Moldova 1	http://trm.md/ro/vector-european/vector-european-emisiune-din-6-noiembrie-2017/
ipg-journal.io	http://www.ipg-journal.io/rubriki/evropeiskaja-integracija/statja/show/propisali-izmenenija-385/
Europa Liberă	https://www.europalibera.org/a/interviu-cu-iulian-groza-valentina-ursu/28860542.html
Europa Liberă rus	https://www.europalibera.org/a/interview-iulian-groza-europe-moldova-summit-law-corruption-people/28872450.html
JurnalTV.md	http://jurnaltv.md/ro/news/2017/11/22/moldova-pe-agenda-summitului-de-la-bruxelles-10311437/#1
Newsmaker.md	http://newsmaker.md/rus/novosti/bryussel-dlya-troih-gotova-li-moldova-k-osobomu-formatu-otnosheniy-s-es-34780