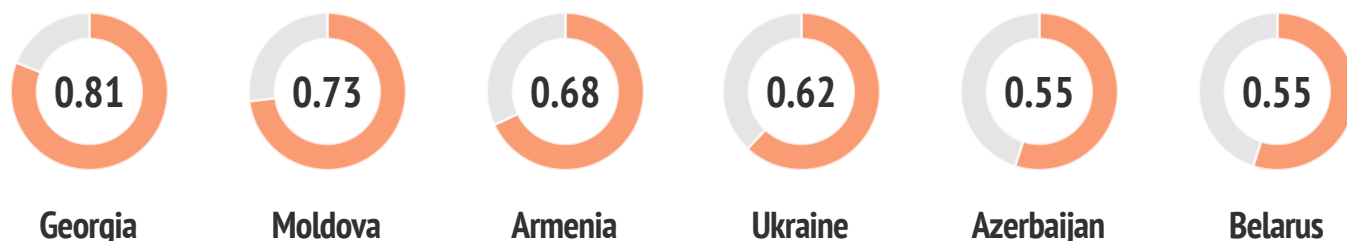


## People to People Contacts in the Eastern Partnership

EaP Index 2017 - Citizens in Europe Indicator

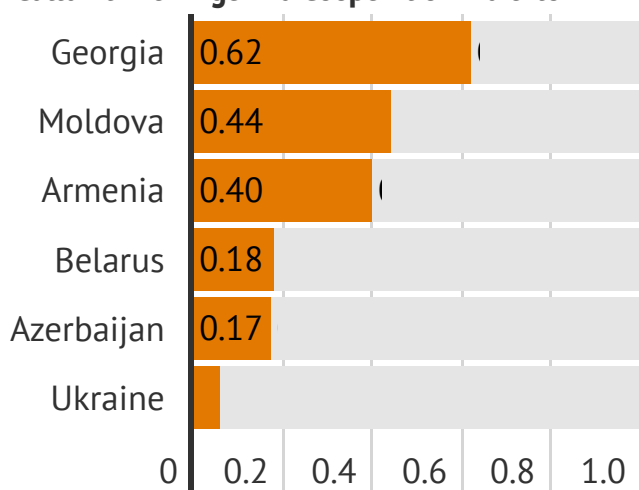


The level of connectivity and people-to-people contacts between the EU and each of its eastern neighbours increased in 2017. The increase in the Index 2017 over the previous Index scores mainly reflects intensified cultural exchange and mobility. The increase is particularly stark for Georgia and Ukraine, both of whom reaped the benefits of the introduction of visa-free travel to the Schengen zone countries.

Overall, the people-to-people indicators in the Index continued to reflect the countries' different levels of ambition in their relations with the EU, with Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine leading in most indicators, but with Armenia remaining on an equal footing in the case of (I) cultural exchange and cooperation, (II) cooperation in science and education, and (III) academic and student mobility.

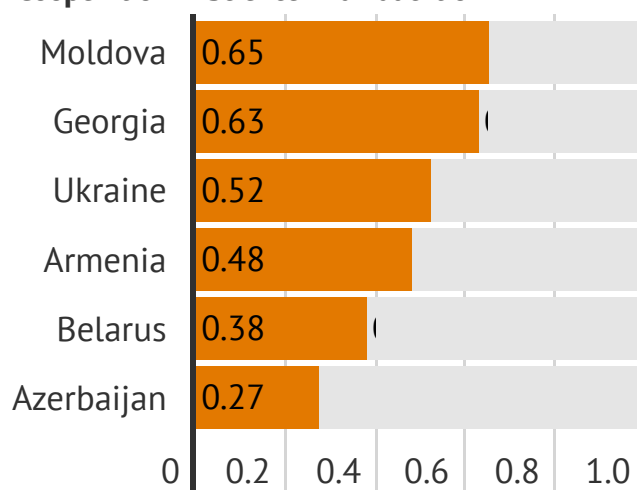
EaP Index 2017 - Citizens in Europe Sub Indicators

### Cultural Exchange and Cooperation Indicator



Ukraine's participation in cultural projects within Creative Europe is very small when calculated on a per capita basis.

### Cooperation in Science and Education



Georgia, Armenia and Moldova remain the countries with the highest participation in capacity-building projects under the Erasmus + framework.

## 20 Deliverables for 2020: better indicators and targets needed

The 2020 deliverables for 2020 set out a number of targets within the chapter *Priority IV: Mobility and people to people contacts* with the aim of bringing EU and EaP countries' societies closer together and offer tangible benefits to citizens.

The liberalisation of the EU's visa regime with Moldova, Ukraine and Georgia has been one of the main drivers behind increased mobility and people-to-people contacts between EaP and EU citizens, but the targets expressed within Priority IV would need to be redefined to bring about significant change and offer tangible benefits to citizens as they set out to do. Many of the **targets** set within Priority IV are strictly **quantitative**, **vaguely formulated** and include **lump figures** instead of being country-specific.

**Quantitative indicators should be balanced with qualitative ones.** Pairing the two, adding for example measurements of the number of new organisations participating or the rate of participation of disadvantaged and rural groups in mobility opportunities, would give a sense of how far these opportunities deliver to citizens.

**Clearly formulated targets would allow for easier assessment of progress.** Defining what can truly be defined as 'significant progress' or 'reinforced cooperation' is key to set a clear and ambitious bar for achievements, that both the EU and EaP countries governments measure themselves against.

**Country specific indicators would allow a better country-by-country assesement** in this important deliverable that, in several ways more directly than any other, benefits the citizens. Cumulative numbers can hide uneven progress. Georgia leads on a number of indicators, outperforming the other six. Ukraine, on the other hand, performs well in absolute terms but loses to the other countries in per-capita measurements, as seemingly high numbers of students taking part in mobility programmes do not compare well with the country's 44+ million citizens. [see box below]

### More attention should be paid to Ukraine

*The liberalisation of EU's visa regime with Ukraine has been one of the main drivers behind increase mobility and people-to-people contacts between EaP and EU citizens. At the same time, Ukraine remain among the worst performers across the region in the Cultural Exchange and Cooperation and Cooperation in Science and Education indicators. Although Ukraine's participation in projects is at the level of other countries in absolute numbers, it is very small on a per capita basis. The same dynamic has been noted for Ukraine's participation in Creative Europe, Horizon2020, ETF and ECC projects. The reasons behind this mismatch should be investigated and measures should be taken to ensure Ukrainians can fully benefit from mobility opportunities in science, education and culture.*

