

Annual activities report

National Platform of Moldova

December 2018-November 2019

Key topics on which the NP focused and results achieved

Under each topic please specify: key events (with approximate number of people who attended), advocacy, research, trainings, statements/press releases, dialogue/consultations with government/EU Delegation/EU institutions, participation in the EaP platforms and panels, etc.). Please indicate important stakeholders in your country, who participated in the activities of the NP and Forum.

- a. Conclusions after 10 years of Eastern Partnership and future plans
 - The conference "10 years of Eastern Partnership - Stronger Together" (April 24, 2019) organized by the Embassy of Romania in Moldova, the EU to Moldova and the National Platform. Around 100 participants from Government officials, representatives from all EU states diplomatic missions accredited to Chisinau, Moldovan SCOs, media, and NP members. Statements at the conference reviewed the achievements of Moldova within the EaP. <https://chisinau.mae.ro/local-news/1756>; <http://m.tvrmoldova.md/actualitate/live-conferinta-parteneriatul-estic-la-10-ani-impreuna-mai-puternici/>
 - A training for 35 young people from Moldova, Georgia and Ukraine that simulated a Ministerial Meeting of the Eastern Partnership as a part of the "10th anniversary of the Eastern Partnership: Results and Perspectives" School. Among the speakers and trainers there were the Head of the European Union Delegation in Chisinau Peter Michalko, the Ambassador of Romania to Moldova Daniel Ionita, the Ambassador of Sweden to Chisinau Anna Lyberg, the Polish Ambassador to Moldova Bartłomiej Zdaniuk, the German Ambassador to Chisinau Angela Ganninger, the Ambassador of France to Moldova Pascal Le Deunff, the Georgian Ambassador to Moldova Merab Antadze, and the First Secretary of the Ukrainian Embassy in Chisinau Evgen Tkachuk. Also, in panels participated Ina Coşeru, member of the CSF Coordination Commission, Ludmila Nofit from Foreign Policy Association, Alexandru Musteață from Soros Moldova Foundation, Vladislav Gribincea from the Legal Resources Center of Moldova and Iulian Groza from the Institute for European Policies and Reforms. <https://ipre.md/2019/03/25/10-ani-de-parteneriat-estic-35-de-tineri-din-republica-moldova-georgia-ucraina-au-simulat-o-reuniune-ministeriala-a-parteneriatului-estic/>
 - General Meeting of the National Platform on May 31, 2019 and December 19th, 2018. 47 NP members attended the meeting. The talks covered the presentation of the Strategic development plan for 2019-2021, selection of the organization to submit the application on behalf of the NP for EaP CSF funding, presentation of the project to support the activity of the Platform for the next 2 years, Delegation of civil society representatives to the SC Platform (Steering Committee EU-MD), and the election of the new NP Facilitator (Ion Manole was elected).
 - Public Discussion Event on the Future of the Eastern Partnership (September 17, 2019). Over 60 participants were present such as Government officials, representatives of the diplomatic missions accredited to Chisinau, Moldova CSOs, media, NP members. Consultations were

held on the priorities and objectives of the Eastern Partnership (EAP) post-2020, but also a dialog on the 10 year achievements. <https://mfa.gov.md/ro/content/viitorul-parteneriatului-estic-discutat-la-chisinau>

- b. Improving the public opinion about the Association Agreement with the European Union and about European values.
 - In order to contribute to the objective information of citizens on the essence and level of implementation of the EU-supported reforms, the conditions for granting macro-financial assistance and other forms of financial support, the consortium of three non-governmental organizations members of the National Platform initiated a national information campaign by organizing 23 information seminars (first half on 2019) in 20 districts from the north and south of Moldova. The campaign was carried out through the joint efforts of the most active organizations and the best experts of the NP. The "Information campaign in the regions of Moldova on the democratic situation and EU assistance for the development of the country" was by 3 NP organisations: Independent Press Association, the National Environment Center (WG3) and the National Youth Council of Moldova (WG4). Around 400 people (teachers, doctors, farmers, businessmen, local journalists, NGOs, artists) from the rural and urban areas of Moldova were informed. During the seminars, the advantages of implementing the provisions of the Association Agreement in the economic, social, environmental protection and anti-corruption fields were presented. <http://www.environment.md/info/267-S-aducem-Europa-acas.html>
- c. Evaluation of country performance regarding EaP 2020 deliverables
 - 5 workshops on the following topics: Connectivity and energy efficiency (October 3rd, 2019), Environment and climate change (October 3rd 2019), Strategic communication and plurality and independence of media (October 15th, 2019), Youth, education, skills development and culture (October 17th, 2019), Economic Development and Market Opportunities (October 25th, 2019). The workshops were attended by 64 members of Government (Secretaries of State from the Ministry of Education, Culture and Research and from the Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment, and from the Ministry of Economy and Infrastructure, Advisors of the Governor of the National Bank, attaches from the Ministry of External Affairs and European Integration, heads of Departments from the Customs Service of Moldova, senior advisors from the State Tax Service, directors from the Environmental Agency, the State Ecological Inspectorate), SCO representatives, including NP members and foreign investors associations representatives. As a result of the workshops, a report will be provided at the General Assembly in Bruxelles regarding the EaP 2020 deliverables implementation results.
- d. Media freedom
 - Statement by the Moldovan National Platform to the 10th Annual Assembly of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum (December 14, 2019) <https://www.transparency.md/2018/12/14/statement-by-the-moldovan-national-platform-to-the-10th-annual-assembly-of-the-eastern-partnership-civil-society-forum/>
 - Resolution of the 2019 Media Forum of Moldova (Chişinău, 4-5 November 2019) <https://www.mediaforum.md/upload/Resolution%202019%20Media%20Forum%20ENG.pdf>

- Debates on the state of mass-media in 2019 in Moldova at the 2019 Media Forum of Moldova (Chişinău, 4-5 November 2019). The conclusions of the event can be summarized as media has the same problems and expectations from the Government. Joined the debates the following officials: Maia Sandu, Prime Minister of Moldova (June-November 2019), Anna Lyberg the Ambassador of Sweden to Moldova and Scott Hocklander the Head of USAID Mission in Moldova.
<https://www.mediaforum.md/event/2019>
 - Report on the freedom of the press in the Republic of Moldova (May 3, 2018 - May 3, 2019) <http://api.md/news/view/ro-memoriu-privind-libertatea-presei-in-republica-moldova-3-mai-2018-3-mai-2019-1997>
 - Statement of Media NGOs: "We inform the international Diplomatic Representatives and media institutions that the cases of aggression towards journalists have multiplied"
<http://api.md/news/view/ro-ong-urile-de-media-aducem-la-cunostinta-ambasadelor-si-institutiilor-internationale-de-media-faptul-ca-in-republica-moldova-s-au-multiplicat-cazurile-de-agresare-a-jurnalistilor-2030>
 - The media NGOs ask Chicu Government to include in its Action Plan commitments regarding the improvement of the media situation <http://api.md/news/view/ro-ong-urile-de-media-solicita-guvernului-chicu-sa-includa-in-programul-sau-de-activitate-angajamente-cu-privire-la-imbunatatirea-situatiei-mass-media-2115>
- e. The politically controlled judiciary
- The conference "10 years of Eastern Partnership - Stronger Together" (April 24, 2019) organized by the Embassy of Romania in Moldova, the EU to Moldova and the National Platform. Around 100 participants from Government officials, representatives from all EU states diplomatic missions accredited to Chisinau, Moldovan SCOs, media, and NP members. Several EU countries representatives such as Dan Neculăescu the Romanian Secretary of State from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Marcin Przydacz the Polish State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as well as the EU Ambassador to Chisinau, Peter Michalko underlined the importance of fair justice and transparent media for Moldova and urged our country to improve its democratic processes. While the NP facilitator Petru Macovei presented the view of civil society by saying that the Moldovan Government lead by the Democratic Party mimicked more reforms than implemented them, although some law were passed, they were not implemented as such "Moldova went from a success story to a story of great disappointment".
 - Statement on the 10 years since the events of April 7, 2009 in Moldova - still awaiting justice <http://api.md/news/view/ro-10-ani-de-la-evenimentele-din-7-aprilie-2009-din-moldova-inca-in-asteptarea-justitiei-1986>
 - The non-transparent appointment of two constitutional judges by the Parliament further undermines public confidence in the independence of the Constitutional Court
<http://api.md/news/view/ro-numirea-netransparenta-a-doi-judecatori-constitutionali-de-catre-parlament-submineaza-in-continuare-increderea-publica-in-independenta-curtii-constitutionale-2054>
- f. Unfriendly environment for the civil society
- Statement by the Moldovan National Platform to the 10th Annual Assembly of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum (December 14, 2018)
<https://www.transparency.md/2018/12/14/statement-by-the-moldovan-national-platform-to-the-10th-annual-assembly-of-the-eastern-partnership-civil-society-forum/>

- Radiography of the attacks on non-governmental organizations in the Republic of Moldova in 2018 (March 20, 2019)
 - <https://www.transparency.md/2019/03/20/radiografia-atacurilor-asupra-organizatiilor-negovernmentale-din-republica-moldova-in-2018/>
 - http://crjm.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/2019-03-20-timeline-atacks-OSC_2018_final.pdf
- g. Fighting climate change and preserving the ecosystems
 - The statement of environmental civil society organizations on the inclusion of environmental protection and climate change priorities in the Government Action Plan
 - <http://www.environment.md/uploads/files/62c8b1921ef2f4593436ccc9e896a64e.pdf>
 - Public CALL regarding Ukraine's intention to expand the Dniester Hydropower Complex
 - <http://www.environment.md/uploads/files/eeb86f86501b54758c3bc2176feb7a48.pdf>
 - Civil society statement about the Moldovan Waste Law
 - https://www.ecocontact.md/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/Declaratie_Legea-Deseurilor-003.pdf
 - 4000 trees were planted on the river Bâc shore as a protective strip. The general public was informed about the dangers of climate change and the importance of protecting the natural ecosystems.

Main achievements

- a) Following the rule of law and respecting the Moldovan voters' choice expressed in the last Parliamentary elections, The NP recognized the legitimacy of the Parliament elected on February 24th and of the Government invested on June 8th. Also, the NP asked all central and local public authorities, civil servants, and international partners to do the same and collaborate with the legal authorities of Moldova to restore the political dialogue after the Constitutional Court of Moldova compromised its mission by issuing 3 unlawful decisions and acting exclusively in the interest of a political party. The NP urged the Constitutional Court to urgently review its decisions from June 7th, 8th and 9th that permitted the unconstitutional disbandment of the Parliament, a suspended President, and two acting Cabinets, one legal and the other illegal. Thankfully with the support of international partners and active involvement of NGOs and public opinion makers the situation in the country was improved and the Constitutional Court withdrew its decisions.
- b) After several years of very little collaboration between the central authorities and civil society and harsh criticism of government policy from civil society, the NP endorsed its members to step up and to accept government offices to promote the reforms that Moldova needs. As a result, a number of respected experts from NP organizations accepted high level positions in the Sandu Government.

- c) The much discussed Waste Law to permit co-incineration was promulgated despite resistance from some MPs and political parties and due to continuous support from the NP and its member organizations. The co-incineration amendments to the law No. 206 from 2016 came into force on October 11th, 2019 and they permit the co-incineration of solid recyclable household waste to obtain energy. The NP and its member organizations worked hard to explain to the general public and to the Moldovan MPs the benefits of such regulations in fighting waste that is deposited on the land and as a result pollutes the waters, land and air. As a result, the law amendments were widely discussed in the national and local media and the law was finally promulgated.

Number of issues raised by the NP in country

- with country decision-makers_ about 10
- in the EU/EU Delegation/EU institutions and EU MSs if relevant: 7

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

- Public Discussion Event on the Future of the Eastern Partnership (September 17, 2019). Over 60 participants were present such as Government officials, representatives of the diplomatic missions accredited to Chisinau, Moldova CSOs, media, NP members. Consultations were held on the priorities and objectives of the Eastern Partnership (EAP) post-2020, but also a dialog on the achievements after 10 years of EaP.
- Meetings of the National Platform were held with the participation of EU Delegation and representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration

Issues raised by the NP having had an influence at the national level: at least 2.

A) Civil society statement about the Moldovan Waste Law

(https://www.ecocontact.md/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/Declaratie_Legea-Deseurilor-003.pdf). After long debates, the Waste Law to permit co-incineration was promulgated despite resistance from some MPs and political parties and due to continuous support from the NP and its member organizations.

B) The Constitutional Court of Moldova compromised its mission by issuing 3 unlawful decisions and acting exclusively in the interest of a political party. The NP urged the Constitutional Court to urgently review its decisions from June 7th, 8th and 9th that permitted the unconstitutional disbandment of the Parliament, a suspended President, and two acting Cabinets, one legal and the other illegal. Thankfully with the support of international partners and active involvement of NGOs and public opinion makers the situation in the country was improved and the Constitutional Court withdrew its decisions.

- at the EU level 1 project implemented by the NP

EU Delegation in Moldova financed a project via Urgent Response Mechanism on informing the population of the regions of Moldova on the EU-MD Association Agreement implementation and the results achieved. 20 regional meetings were organised with the participation of various stakeholders at the local level in 20 rayons of the North and South of Moldova affected by propaganda who received updated information from the members of the NP on justice reform, anti-corruption policies, economic development and DCFTA implementation, environment and social policies implemented under DCFTA. 10.000 copies of newspaper with description of EU assistance to Moldova were disseminated in 20 rayons of Moldova. Youth was informed about EU assistance through special events organised in the project for students in the Northern and Southern parts of Moldova.

General info about the NP

The membership of NP is 86 members. In 2019, 3 new members were attracted.

--adoption of new regulations. The Code of Ethical Conduct was presented to NP members and discussed; NP general Regulation updated;

--efforts made to increased visibility and better public perception of the NP and Forum in your country. A national information campaign by organizing 23 information seminars in 20 districts from the north and south of Moldova talking about the EU and EaP importance, the advantages of implementing the provisions of the Association Agreement in the economic, social, environmental protection and anti-corruption fields were presented.

A communication plan was put into place; a news website was developed, as well as a Facebook page. Regularly updates on NP activities are uploaded on its Facebook page and website. Also, all NP public events are advertised in the media and information for media is released after all major NP events.

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

- 1) <http://tvr Moldova.md/actualitate/relatiile-ue-cu-statele-din-vecinatatea-estica-o-prioritate-comuna-pentru-romania-si-republica-moldova/>
- 2) <https://stiri.md/article/politica/10-ani-de-la-lansarea-parteneriatului-estic-ce-beneficii-a-avut-moldova>
- 3) <http://www.jurnal.md/ro/news/e27a802ad91a1b54/piedicile-din-relatiile-uniunii-europene-cu-republica-moldova.html>
- 4) <https://deschide.md/ro/stiri/social/47697/Rom%C3%A2nia-insist%C4%83-pe-lansarea-unei-dezbateri-extinse-cu-privire-la-viitorul-Parteneriatului-Estic.htm>
- 5) <https://economica.md/?p=680>
- 6) <https://www.caleaeuropeana.ro/86-de-ong-uri-din-cadrul-platformei-nationale-a-forumului-societatii-civile-din-parteneriatul-estic-cer-demisia-judecatorilor-curtii-constitutionale-a-republicii-moldova-pe-care-ii-acuza-ca-au-action/>
- 7) <http://www.jurnal.md/ro/news/46771be721b0a8eb/toti-judecatorii-constititionali-sa-demisioneze-declaratia-a-85-de-ong-uri-din-parteneriatul-estic.html>
- 8) <https://noi.md/md/politica/platforma-nationala-a-societatii-civile-a-parteneriatului-estic-cere-recunoasterea-legitimitatii-parlamentului-doc>

- 9) <http://tv8.md/2019/06/19/mai-multe-ong-uri-cer-demisia-judecatorului-constitutional-zaporojan-el-a-tradat-increderea-acordata/>
- 10) https://adevarul.ro/moldova/politica/peste-80-ong-uri-solicita-demisia-judecatorilor-curtii-constitutionale-1_5cfe6a08892c0bb0c637569e/index.html
- 11) <http://m.tvrmoldova.md/actualitate/86-de-ong-uri-cer-demisia-tuturor-judecatorilor-curtii-constitutionale-si-au-compromis-rolul-constitutional/>
- 12) <http://tv8.md/2019/06/09/societatea-civila-vrea-demisia-judecatorilor-curtii-constitutionale-86-de-ong-uri-cer-functionarilor-sa-recunoasca-noul-guvern/>
- 13) <http://trm.md/social/mai-multe-ong-uri-solicita-demisia-tuturor-judecatorilor-curtii-constitutionale>
- 14) <http://a-tv.md/md/index.php?newsid=61061>
- 15) <http://cuvintul.md/article/incinerarea-si-coincinerarea-deseurilor-reactii-controversate/>
- 16) <https://unghiul.com/societatea-civila-sustine-modificarea-legii-deseurilor/>
- 17) <https://www.zdg.md/stiri/stiri-sociale/mai-multe-ong-uri-cer-demisia-violetei-ivanov-din-functia-de-presedinta-a-comisiei-mediu-si-dezvoltare-regionala>
- 18) <https://moldova.europalibera.org/a/ina-co%C5%9Feru-noi-trebuie-s%C4%83-avem-un-sector-dezvoltat-de-gestionare-a-de%C8%99eurilor-/30182471.html>
- 19) http://jurnal.md/ro/news/63ae57234609f8c7/societatea-civila-sustine-legea-deseurilor-si-cere-demisia-violetei-ivanov-din-functia-de-presedinte-al-comisiei-mediu.html?fbclid=IwAR3fBm66vO4rbiCall_OfuEhOuF7duVomW-p7tudtalulSaLpYx9AO0e2Po#.XV0V2KpUUPQ.facebook
- 20) <https://cotidianul.md/2019/08/22/mai-multe-ong-uri-cer-demisia-violetei-ivanov-nu-vine-cu-solutii-in-rezolvarea-problemei-deseurilor/>
- 21) <https://agora.md/stiri/60800/mai-multe-ong-uri-vor-demisia-violetei-ivanov--dupa-ce-deputata-i-a-cerut-lui-igor-dodon-sa-nu-promulge-proiectul-care-va-permite-incinerarea-deseurilor?fbclid=IwAR2dnESUS6KW4XgJ5CF888IF5wC9zZrBPEIesPrHv8i-RBfyX4w6i0vC3mo>
- 22) <http://tvrmoldova.md/social/societatea-civila-sustine-modificarea-legii-deseurilor/>
- 23) https://www.ipn.md/ro/societatea-civila-sustine-modificarea-legii-deseurilor-7967_1067603.html

Major activities conducted within the NP project funded via the EaP CSF Secretariat and the project indicators

- Evaluation of country performance regarding EaP 2020 deliverables. 5 workshops on the following topics: Connectivity and energy efficiency (October 3rd, 2019), Environment and climate change (October 3rd, 2019), Strategic communication and plurality and independence of media (October 15th, 2019), Youth, education, skills development and culture (October 17th, 2019), Economic Development and Market Opportunities (October 25th, 2019). The workshops were attended by 64 members of Government, CSO representatives, including NP members and foreign investors associations representatives. As a result of the workshops, a report will be provided at the General Assembly in Bruxelles regarding the EaP 2020 deliverables implementation results.
- 4000 trees were planted on the river Bâc shore as a protective strip during an event organized by the National Platform together with the National Environment Centre, the Ministry of Agriculture, and Regional Development. Thus, the NP informed the public about the dangers of climate change and the importance of protecting the ecosystems. NP has shown its support towards the cause by participating to the event. It was also an opportunity to look into new possible members of the NP from the number of volunteers from other organizations.

- From April 2019 until November 2019, NP held 3 general meetings and each WG held several meetings to discuss the important issues in the country, the civil society position and actions to be undertaken.
- A communication plan for the NP was put into place; a news website was developed, as well as a Facebook page. Regularly updates on NP activities are uploaded on its Facebook page and website. 22 posts on the NP Facebook page reached 3979 people with a post engagement in the month of October of 1278. Also, all NP public events are advertised in the media and information for media is released after all major NP events. According to the in-house media review, the NP appeared in the national and Romanian media around 33 times during the reporting period. Based only on the information provided freely by some of the media outlets, the NP stories reached 17244 people and got 2294 shares and likes. One newsletter on NP activities has been developed and published.

Evaluation of NP activities

The year of 2019 was challenging because of the uncooperative Democratic Party Government and its unlawful pressing on the judiciary and media institutions to manipulate citizens. At the same time, the NP was active and vocal in its opinions. The NP was present in the national and regional media, also in the regions talking to people from rural and urban areas about the EU values and the Association Agreement. Also, the Platform collaborated with the Sandu Government and several experts from the NP member organizations were appointed into high level governmental positions.

3 news members joined the Platform and we are actively looking into new potential member organizations. The WGs were less active because of the changes at the leadership level. This year new coordinators were elected for the 4WGs and a new country facilitator was elected.

Overall, the NP activity was fair and responsive to all changes in the country and for the benefit of our citizens.