

Annual Activities Report 2018

MOLDOVAN NATIONAL PLATFORM REPORT

ACTIVITIES OF THE PLATFORM IN 2018

Meetings, assemblies, consultations of the Moldovan National Platform

During the last year of activity (after the Annual Assembly of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum in Tallinn, October 2017), 5 NP meetings took place including:

1. 06.12.2017, 41 participants, invitees: EU Ambassador, Peter Michalko, DG Near, CSO Support East, Sînziana Poiana; the main topics: EU-Republic of Moldova dialogue – the role of CSO; Presenting the project "Technical Assistance to Support CSO Development in the Republic of Moldova"
2. 01.03.2018, at the initiative of WG1, with 28 participants, invitee: EU Ambassador, Peter Michalko; the main topic: WG no.1: Presentation of outputs and objectives
3. 18.04.2018, 23 participants; the main topic: debates on the draft law on non-commercial organizations
4. 19.06.2018, at the initiative of WG1, with 32 participants; invitee: EU Ambassador, Peter Michalko; the main topics: legal initiatives in the economic field that may harm the public interest, presentation of the priorities of WG2 and WG3, EU Roadmap for Engagement with Civil Society
5. 19.12.2018, 19 participants; the main topics: current NP activities, 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.

In the working groups, meetings took place systematically and the main topics for discussion were current and future actions and activities developed in each group.

According to the information provided by the coordinators:

- in WG1 4 meetings were held with country partners, on the following topics: electoral system, corruption, human rights, state capture and justice sector reform, 50-60 participants;
- in WG2 4 were held, on the following topics: 05.03.2018, 6 participants - Approving proposals on draft work programmes of the EaP Platforms and panels; 28.03.2018, 7 participants - Presentation of a study by Georgeta Mincu on "Evaluation of Economic Incentives for SME Development"; 24.04.2018, 5 participants - Discussion of the monitoring report "Situation of local democracy and the degree of implementation of policy documents in the field of decentralization", elaborated within a project developed by IDIS Viitorul, CALM and PromoLEX; 05.10.2018, 6 participants - Consultation of Priorities of WG2.
- in WG3 2 meetings were held, including a meeting with 8 participants in December 2017 with the EU Ambassador, Peter Michalko. One joint meeting of WG3 Moldova and WG3 Ukraine took place on July 3, 2018, where environmental problems were discussed and the situation referring to the plans of Ukraine to build a new power plant on the border with

Moldova and the potential impact on the Dniester river and the inhabitants living in the neighbouring zone.

- in WG4 – 2 meetings were held (July 20, 2018; 5 participants, the main topics: New format of the EaP Civil Society Forum; Extension of Working Group no. 4 - Public call for applications; Set up a working group to recognize non-formal education and develop an initial action plan; October 20, 2018; 8 participants, the main topics: Youth Priority - (CNTM Resolution on the Agency for the Development of Youth Programs and Activities); Strategic planning - vision for year 2019 (Annual Assembly of ESF Tbilisi));
- in WG5 3 meetings were held.

Statements, position papers of the Moldovan National Platform

Monitoring Public Policies in Moldova EaP CSF, Moldovan National Platform, Working Group 1, September, 2018, <http://www.transparency.md/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/Monitoring-public-policies-in-Moldova-September-2018.pdf> , <http://eap-csf.eu/wp-content/uploads/Monitoring-Moldova.pdf>

4.06.2018, Moldovan Platform of the EaP CSF: Statement on the Intimidation of Veaceslav Negruta, an expert of Transparency International Moldova and former Minister of Finance, <http://www.transparency.md/2018/06/04/declaration-of-the-moldovan-platform-of-the-eap-csf/>

22.06.2018 Statement on Invalidation of the Election of the Mayor of Chisinau Municipality, <http://alegeliber.md/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Statement-of-civil-society-on-invalidation-of-local-elections-Chisinau-2018.pdf>

25.06.,2018 Statement of the Eroding Democracy in Republic of Moldova <https://watchdog.md/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Statement-of-civil-society-on-eroding-democracy-in-Moldova-June-25-2018.pdf>

14.12.2018 Statement by the Moldovan National Platform to the 10th Annual Assembly of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum <http://www.transparency.md/2018/12/14/statement-by-the-moldovan-national-platform-to-the-10th-annual-assembly-of-the-eastern-partnership-civil-society-forum/>

ADVOCACY

Number of issues/topics raised by the NP in the country

- **With country decision-makers/public:**
 - Participation in the pro-european campaign in the regions of Moldova - May, 2018
 - Members of WG 1 initiated public appeals on such issues as quality of governance, corruption, human rights, democracy, justice. The appeals were joined by members of other WGs or organizations not members of the NP

13.12.2017 The Draft Law Regarding „Decriminalization of Economic Crimes” releases „Smart Boys” from Criminal Liability, Undermines the Fight Against



Corruption and Can Not Be Promoted, December 13, 2017, <https://crjm.org/en/proiectul-privind-decriminalizarea-infractiunilor-economice-scapa-de-raspundere-penala-baietii-smecheri-submineaza-lupta-anticoruptie-si-nu-poate-fi-promovat/>

14.03.2018 Declaration of the organisations of the National Platform of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum about the increasing tendencies of unjustified limitation of the right of Moldovan citizens to initiate and conduct legislative referenda:

<https://www.transparency.md/2018/03/16/declaration-of-organisations-of-the-national-platform-of-the-eastern-partnership-civil-society-forum/>

26.07.2018, Tax reform – an attempt to disguise the amnesty of dubious capital?

<https://www.expert-grup.org/en/biblioteca/item/1641-reforma-fiscal-a-o-incercare-de-camouflage-a-amnistiei-capitalului-dubios?&category=184>

3.09.2018, Declaration on disproportionate conduct of authorities at protests and public demonstrations on 26-27 August and 1-3 September,

2018, <https://crjm.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/2018-09-03-Decl-NGOs-Protests-ENG.pdf>

17.12.2018 Lacking transparency appointment of three judges in the Constitutional Court undermines the public trust and independence of the Constitutional Court

<http://www.transparency.md/2018/12/17/declaratie-numirea-netransparenta-a-trei-judecatori-ai-curtii-constitutionale-submineaza-increderea-publica-in-independenta-curtii-constitutionale/>

27.12.2018 Public Appeal on the organisation of consultancies and public debates on the Draft Code of Parliamentary Rules and Procedures

<http://www.transparency.md/2018/11/27/apel-public-privind-organizarea-consultarilor-si-dezbaterilor-publice-privind-proiectul-codului-de-reguli-si-proceduri-parlamentare/>

17.10.2018 Appeal: The organizations of civil society require the Moldovan authorities lending at liability the persons involved in the illegal extradition of 7 citizens of Turkey <http://www.transparency.md/2018/10/17/apel-organizatiile-societatii-civile-cer-autoritatilor-republicii-moldova-atragerea-la-raspundere-a-vinovatilor-de-extradarea-de-facto-a-celor-sapte-cetateni-turci-si-oferirea-protectiei-pentru-alte/>

4.10.2018 Appeal of the Moldovan Platform of the CSF to the Ninth Eastern Partnership Meeting of Foreign Ministers

<http://www.transparency.md/2018/10/04/apel-of-the-moldovan-platform-of-the-eap-csf-to-the-ninth-eastern-partnership-meeting-of-foreign-ministers/>

- In Moldova, Expert Grup and EFOR Romania are currently implementing an advocacy project to speed up the gas interconnection between Romania and Moldova, as follow-up on previous research and watchdog efforts in 2015-2017 to accelerate interconnections and reforms in the electricity and gas sectors. The project includes meetings with stakeholders in both countries and advocacy with the Romanian gas transmission company Transgaz, which undertook the commitment to build the infrastructure both in Romania and

Moldova; and debates with local administrations and local communities in Moldova planned to take place in early 2019.

- Joint meeting of Moldovan and Ukrainian WG3 on small hydropower issues: On July 3, 2018, the second meeting of the Working Group No. 3 of the Ukrainian National Platform of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum (WG3 UNP FGS PFP) took place in the framework of the project "Public Synergy".

The first session was devoted to the environmental problems of hydropower



development in Ukraine and Moldova and it was held in an extended composition with the participation of Co-ordinator WG3 of EaP CSF Ina Coseru and members of WG3 of the National Platform of Moldova: Ilya Trombitsky (Association of Keepers of Dniester River "Eco-Tiras"), Iuliana Cantaragiu (National Environmental Center of Moldova), Alecu Renita (Ecological Movement of Moldova), as

well as invited independent experts.

The position of the environmental NGOs of Moldova / WG3 of the Moldovan National Platform of EaP CSF was presented by Ina Coseru (National Environmental Center of Moldova) and Ilya Trombitsky (Eco-Tiras). Moldovan Environmental NGOs are extremely concerned about plans for the construction of new and existing hydroelectric power stations on the Dniester River. The ecological situation in the Dniester basin is currently very tense. Dniester has entered the process of gradual dehydration. Further interference with the river ecosystem is unacceptable. At the same time, negotiations are ongoing between the Moldovan and Ukrainian officials on signing of an agreement on the operation of Dniester hydroelectric plant, however, their content is unknown to the public and the public can not influence it. A joint effort is required to ensure the proper implementation of the Agreement between the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine and the Government of the Republic of Moldova on cooperation in the field of protection and sustainable

development of the Dniester River basin, in order to protect the river against unreasonable and environmentally dangerous decisions regarding the development of hydropower on its course. Dniester river is a source of drinking water for more than a half of the population of Moldova thus signing and respecting the agreement is crucial for the Moldovan population.

The WG3 members from Moldova insisted that the results of the Assessment should be taken into consideration while signing the Agreement. They

were supported by the Ukrainian NGOs.

A [statement](#) was developed as a result of the meeting and adopted by WG3 from Moldova and Ukraine of EaP CSF.



- **With the EU/EU Delegation/EU institutions and EU MS:**

- WG3 in Moldova developed a declaration on the situation on the Dniester River at the beginning of 2018 which was shared with the EU Delegation in Moldova within a meeting of WG3 at the premises of EU Delegation of Moldova with the EU Ambassador Peter Michalko. It was also shared with the Embassy of Ukraine in Moldova on the 14th of March 2018, within a protest of civil society "No more dams on Dniester River" which was organised in front of the Embassy of Ukraine in Moldova. It was also voiced at the EaP Platform 3 meeting on Connectivity, energy efficiency, environment and climate change on the 29th of May 2018 in Brussels, as a message for the Government of Ukraine, EU representatives and financial institutions present in the room (EIB, EBRD, the World Bank).



The messages were reiterated at the EaP Panel on Environment and Climate Change held in Kyiv on the 12-13 June 2018. As a result of the meeting, the Moldovan and Ukrainian NGOs developed a Statement of WG3 of EaP CSF which was sent to the Government of Ukraine, EU institutions, Ukrainian Embassy in Moldova and financial institutions. The Statement requires that no more dams will be built on Dniester River, the main source of drinking water for more than a half of the population of Moldova. Also relations should be strengthened between Moldova and Ukraine in order to jointly monitor the operation of Novodnistrovsk hydropower plant built in Ukraine on Dniester River, which decreased substantially the water volume in the river during the last 20 years. A Moldo-Ukrainian Commission was set up to improve the situation and a draft agreement on the operation of Novodnistrovsk hydropower plant was developed. The statement requests the Moldovan side to sign the agreement, when the study on Environmental Impact Assessment of Novodnistrovsk hydropower plant will be developed by Moldova with the help of the Swedish Government and which will contain information on the



necessary water volume which is needed by Moldova to supply the population with drinking water. This data will be available in summer 2019 and will help both sides to agree on the volume of the water to be released downstream Novodnistrovsk hydropower plant during the normal regime of precipitations, during floods and during droughts.

The statement was also presented to the EU officials in Brussels by the bilateral EU-Moldova civil society platform which monitors the implementation of Association Agreement on behalf of the civil society in Moldova.

After merging the Ministry of Agriculture with the Ministry of Environment in Moldova and the Ministry of Regional Development, and forming of a Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment, WG3 extended several invitations during 2018 to meet with the minister and discuss the Statement on Dniester river but also other messages which were presented by EaP CSF representatives during EaP Platform 3 and Panel meetings on Environment and Climate Change, but there were no meetings organised and no willingness of the minister to come to such meetings. Thus EU Delegation suggested to organise and moderate such a meeting, in order to see the official position of the ministry on the messages promoted by WG3 during 2018.

GENERAL INFO ABOUT THE NP AND WGs

Membership:

Currently the NP includes 83 member organizations. All member organizations comply with the requirements of the internal Regulation of ‘non-governmental, non-partisan organisations that respect democratic values, bona fide, independent organisations in their own right’.

Adoption of new regulations:

In 2017 a draft document for the NP has been developed and in 2018 the Joint Strategic Plan 2019-2021 of the EU-Moldova Civil Society Platform and National Platform of Moldova of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum has been consulted and approved. This strategic document includes provisions on activities aimed at strengthening and consolidating NP activities via the following ways:

- effective advocacy at national level;
- effective advocacy at EU-MD and EaP levels;
- build a strong constituency;
- improve internal management practices;
- strengthen membership.

Based on this strategic plan, concrete activities will be drafted and implemented in the following three years.

Efforts made to increased visibility and better public perception of the NP and Forum in your country:

Conferences

18.04.2018 “Towards a functional electoral democracy” with the support Friedrich Ebert Foundation, EED and the Embassy of Netherlands to Romania

18.08.2018 “Adopt a Vote: off-line event” with the support of Embassy of Netherlands to Romania and Black Sea Trust for Regional Cooperation of the German Marshall Fund of USA

Europe Day

10.05.2018 In collaboration with TV8 channel and with the support of the Embassy of Netherlands to Romania, organisation of a pro-European Tele-marathon with the reporter Natalia Morari <http://tv8.md/tv8-show/politica-nataliei-morari-telemaraton-cu-ocazia-zilei-europei-2018/>

12.05.2018 Participation in the Europe Town in the Central Park of Chisinau with the tent of the National Platform.

SELF-EVALUATION OF NP ACTIVITIES

Throughout 2018, the National Platform has been vocal and representative for all its members. It has been representative for its current members and new members. In 2018, three new organisations became members of the NP. The NP decisions have been always consulted with NP members and adopted with the majority of votes, this ensuring full transparency and compliance with internal Regulation. While issuing position papers and various calls/declarations, the NP Facilitator disseminated the documents to WG coordinators and their members and collected feedback, based on which many calls/declarations and positions papers were undersigned by the vast majority.