



Annual Activities Report 2018

UKRAINIAN NATIONAL PLATFORM REPORT

THE KEY FOCUS AREAS:

Strengthening the institutional capacity of the Platform with an aim to ensure the sustainable functioning of the Platform, to regulate different directions of the Platform's activities, and to develop the skills and institutional capacity of the UNP's members. For this purpose, the following activities have been done:

- **Several documents regulating UNP activities were adopted.** In particular, [the UNP Strategic Plan 2017-2020](#), [the Membership Policy](#), and [the Organizational & Communication Principles](#) were approved in December 2017 by the UNP members, via electronic voting. Earlier the drafts of these documents were discussed within the Platform in the working groups and at the UNP Annual Conference which had been held on October 3-4, 2017.
- **Confirming the membership in the Platform by UNP member (re-registration):** During the recent years more than 200 NGOs have been formally the members of the EaP CSF Ukrainian National Platform. However, many of them were not in fact engaged into the Platform's activities. When discussing within the Platform the issues of the membership, the UNP leadership and most of its members have come to a common understanding that quality is better than quantity, and it would be better for the Platform to have less members who are actively engaged into its activities than more than 200, many of which are not taking part in the UNP's work at all and often do not identify themselves with the Platform. During 2018 the procedure of re-registration of membership was held: the UNP members had to confirm their status of members, having sent their statutory documents to the UNP Secretariat. This requirement also allowed checking up the legal status of the UNP members, their registration according to new requirements of Ukrainian legislation (some of former UNP members didn't met these criteria).
- **Regular meetings of the UNP working groups and Steering Committee.** With support of the [Civic Synergy Project](#)¹ the Ukrainian National Platform is having the conditions for regular meetings of the working groups and the Steering Committee what is very important for the institutional development of the Platform. During the working groups' meetings the participants discuss and agree the plans for joint analytical and advocacy activities, share experience and information about the projects which they are implementing, get the updates on the recent initiatives of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum, and the UNP's input to the Forum's activities. Altogether, **15 meetings of the UNP working groups** were held during the reporting period:
 - ✓ Three meetings of the **Working group 1** "Democracy, human rights, good governance and stability": 15 January, 4 May and 28 September 2018;
 - ✓ Three meetings of the **Working group 2** "Economic integration and convergence

¹ funded by the European Union, co-funded and implemented by the International Renaissance Foundation



with EU policies”: 16 January, 17 June and 19 October 2018;

- ✓ Three meetings of the **Working group 3** “Environment, climate change and energy security”: 7 November 2017, 6 March and 3 July 2018;
- ✓ Three meetings of the **Working group 4** “Contacts between people”: 16 January, 16 April and 24 July 2018;
- ✓ Three meetings of the **Working group 5** “Social and labour policy and social dialogue”: 20 November 2017, 10 May and 19 October 2018.

Also, all the working groups had the session for the working group meeting at the UNP Annual Conference which was held on 2-3 November 2018. The important new trend for all working groups was preparation of the operation plan of activities for 2018. The operation plans were based on the UNP Strategic Plan, working groups’ thematic priorities and topical policy needs. One more symptomatic trend might be noted – a strengthening of the synergy between the working groups of both Ukrainian Platforms (the EaP CSF Ukrainian National Platform and the Ukrainian Side of the EU-Ukraine Civil Society Platform) – more detailed information on this issue is described in chapter 4 of this report. The meetings of the UNP Steering Committee also have been held regularly (in a total, 8 SC meetings took place during November 2018 – November 2019).

- **Trainings for the Platform’s members, improving their skills.** The UNP members were actively engaged to the events, held by the Civic Synergy Project in 2018 in order to improve knowledge and skills of the UNP and UA CSP’s members related to the analytical and advocacy activities of NGOs, EU law, and implementation of the Association agreement. In particular, the UNP members took part in:
 - ✓ Training on writing project proposals regarding the European integration issues (4-5 July 2018);
 - ✓ “Civic Synergy School” (11-13 July 2018), which was held for the second time already. The Civic Synergy School-2018 was devoted to the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement, and aimed to assist participants to use opportunities provided by the AA in their advocacy work, to deepen participants’ knowledge on the institutional mechanisms and processes of the AA implementation as well as existing “windows of opportunities” for a civic influence;
 - ✓ Webinar “EU Law: simple explanation of complicated issues” (26 September 2018);
 - ✓ Webinar “Association Agreement: simple explanation of complicated issues” (18 October 2018);
 - ✓ Training “Foundations of implementation of the AA and approximation to the EU Law” (24 October);
 - ✓ Webinar “Sustainable development and trade in the Association Agreement” (9 November);
 - ✓ Webinar “DFCTA between the EU and Ukraine: simple explanation of complicated issues” (22 November 2018).

In addition, within the framework of the project “EaP Think Bridges” the Foreign Policy Council “Ukrainian Prism” has launched in 2018 the series of the regional educational workshops where the participants might get to know more about the Eastern Partnership, its institutional aspects and opportunities, principles and advantages of membership in the EaP



CSF Ukrainian National Platform. The first such a workshop was held on 9 October 2018 in Chernivtsi city, the second one will be held on 20 December in Chernihiv.

UNP ANALYTICAL ACTIVITIES:

Implementation by the EaP countries (including Ukraine) the document “Eastern Partnership - 20 Deliverables for 2020” has produced a necessity in the policy-oriented analytical papers evaluating the relevant process and challenges. The UNP expert study “Ukraine in the coordinates of the Eastern Partnership 2017-2020”, which was published in October 2017, allowed to assess comprehensively Ukraine’s achievements in implementation of the milestones set for 2017, as well as to prepare recommendations for authorities pointing the priority tasks. This study also provided an impetus for preparing by UNP experts other analytical products related to “20 EaP Deliverables”.

First, to familiarize the general public with the expert conclusions in the study “Ukraine in the coordinates of the Eastern Partnership 2017-2020” on the eve of the EaP Summit, held in late November 2017 in Brussels, European Pravda published a series of stories written by the authors of the separate chapters of the analytical report:

- “Measuring the Eastern Partnership: How to Assess Success of the EU Initiative?” and “Aligning with Outsiders: How the EU Sees the Eastern Partnership's Future” (Hennadiy Maksak);
- “Security for the Eastern Partnership: Changes Ukraine Should Lobby for” (Vitaliy Martynyuk);
- “Eastern Partnership’s Gender Focus: Are There Successes in Ukraine?” (Yulia Savelyeva);
- “Energy Sector of the Eastern Partnership: Assistance Kyiv Can Count on” (Andriy Chubyk).

Also, in September 2018 a brief analysis ([memo](#)) of the priority steps which Ukraine should fulfill in order to implement “20 EaP Deliverables by 2020” was published (the target audience – European institutions). Also, at the 2nd Association Forum Exchange organized by the Civic Synergy Project during 19-21 September 2018 the analytical papers – “[The Eastern Partnership’s key deliverables compared with the Association Agreement provisions: what is the added value for the EU-Ukraine relations?](#)” and “[The Future Economic Integration of the Eastern Partnership Countries: A View from Ukraine](#)” – were presented.

In addition to collective analytical works, the UNP members also worked on preparing policy papers in the particular sectors and/or spheres of the European integration, as well as on the thematic publications related to the grant projects’ implementation. The detailed list of these publications is available at the webpage of the Civic Synergy Project: <https://www.civic-synergy.org.ua/en/analytics/>

In terms of analysis of processes taking place in the EaP region the digest “EaP Think Bridge” prepared by the Foreign Policy Council “Ukrainian Prism” within the framework of one of the Civic Synergy’s grant projects seems also to be important analytical overview.



ESTABLISHING COOPERATION WITH THE AUTHORITIES AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL:

In 2017, the EaP CSF Ukrainian National Platform put the considerable efforts to establish contacts and develop cooperation with authorities, in particular, with key institutions responsible for development and implementation of the European integration policy as well as with the competent ministries.

During November 2017 - November 2018 the UNP continued to broaden the circle of stakeholders with whom it intended to develop cooperation. The dynamics of meetings, in comparison with the previous year, was slightly less intensive, however. On the other side, in addition to new contacts, the UNP has been holding a constant dialogue with those stakeholders the certain experience and algorithms of cooperation with whom have been earlier set already.

As Vice Prime Minister I.Klympush-Tsintsadze stressed in her speech at the Annual UNP Conference held on 2-3 November 2018, “the EaP CSF Ukrainian National Platform is a powerful tool in the EU-Ukraine dialogue” <https://www.kmu.gov.ua/ua/news/platforma-shidnogo-partnerstva-ye-potuzhnim-instrumentom-u-dialozi-ukrayina-yes-ivanna-klimpush-cincadze>

These are several meetings out of the main ones held during the reporting period:

- **Meeting on development of the Communications Strategy of the European integration** chaired by the Vice Prime Minister I.Klympush-Tsyntsadze (11 December 2017, jointly with the UA CSP, and later in July 2018). The NGO “Internews Ukraine” (UNP WG1) was among the co-authors of this strategy. The document was adopted in October 2017; whereas in July 2018 the Vice Prime Minister initiated creation of the Coordination Council on Strategy Implementation, to the work of which 3 UNP representatives joined;
- **Meeting of the Platforms’ experts on gender issues with the Government Plenipotentiary for gender policy issues Kateryna Levchenko** (5 April 2018) which was helpful for synergizing efforts and future plans between the authorities and civil society in gender sphere;
- **Meeting of the members of the UNP and UA CSP with diplomats of the EU Delegation to Ukraine** (16 May 2018), during which the representatives of the EU Delegation outlined the directions of the EU’s activities in different thematic areas. Participants discussed opportunities and challenges caused by the technical assistance of the European Union to Ukraine, as well as more concrete mechanisms for cooperation.
- **Meeting with the EU Members-States’ Ambassadors of the Eastern Partnership** (November 20) during which the UNP representatives and diplomats discussed the opportunities for events devoted to the 10-th anniversary of the Eastern Partnership, and for development of the EaP initiative after 2020.

The **visits of journalists** organized by the Foreign Policy Council “Ukrainian Prism” and partner organizations within the framework of the project “Eastern Partnership Think Bridges” with support of the Civic Synergy Project have also become the important initiative aimed at enhancement of the dialogue and understanding between Ukraine and the neighboring countries. In particular, the visit of Hungarian journalists was organized in May 2018, in September and November 2018 the representatives of Polish and Belorussian media visited Ukraine correspondingly. Meetings with representatives of authorities, diplomats as well as civil society experts (UNP members) were the important components of these visits. Journalists also had the visit to the frontline territories as the compulsory element of their agenda. The initiative was aimed at spreading the impartial information



about the situation in Ukraine, overcoming stereotypes and consequences of Russian propaganda, making Ukraine's image abroad more positive, and promotion of good neighbourly relations.

One of results of the meetings with the leadership of the Ministry of Youth and Sports of Ukraine held in 2017 was that representatives of UNP Working Group 4 "Contacts between People" were engaged in **organization of the International Expert Forum "The Youth and the State – Partnership for Development"**, scheduled for December 2018 in Lviv.

Representatives of the UNP participate in the Public Councils at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Information Policy, Ministry of Social Policy, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, Pension Fund of Ukraine and other sectoral state agencies, aiming to use these fora to communicate positions of the Ukrainian National Platform and its members (UNP representatives have joined some of the Public Councils just because of the Platform's advocacy activities).

The EaP CSF Ukrainian National Platform was also invited to the Eastern Partnership's events taking place in Ukraine. For instance, when the **Euronest Parliamentary Assembly**, which was organized by the Parliamentary Committee Secretariat, was held in Kyiv in the late October 2017, the UNP representatives were invited as speakers to the Plenary Session. In particular, UNP National Coordinator Hennadiy Maksak delivered an official speech at the Session opening ceremony.

Also, within the framework of **6th Meeting of the EaP Panel on Environment and Climate Change**, which was held in Kyiv on 12-13 June 2018, the side event "Good ecological governance in Ukraine: challenges and achievement" was organized by the UNP WG3 and the Civic Synergy Project. The UNP experts and the Deputy Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources M.Kuzio took part in the discussion. At the event, the results of the project "Monitoring and assessment of introducing by Ukraine the provisions of the Luxembourg declaration related to ecological governance", which had been implemented by UNP and UA CSP members to advocate jointly the ecological reform in Ukraine, were presented.



The event important for development a dialogue between stakeholders - **the round table "State of play and prospects of reforming a social dialogue in Ukraine"** – was organized by the UNP Working group 5 "Social and Labour Policy and Social Dialogue" in April 2018. The aim of the round table was to discuss the existing problems and prospects of reforming a social dialogue in Ukraine, to enhance a dialogue and cooperation between participants of the round table, and to unite efforts for conducting the reforms in the sphere of social dialogue. Representatives of authorities, trade unions, organizations of employers, NGOs and scientists were among participants of this round table. The analytical paper "How to set up efficient social dialogue in Ukraine?" was presented at the event. As the follow-up of the event, the resolution of the round table based on expressed opinions was adopted.

One more advocacy tool actively used by the UNP is preparation of **statements** on topical issues in order to draw attention to certain problems or prevent actions of the government that can have adverse consequences for society and political image of Ukraine. In particular, during October 2017 – October 2018, the UNP made three statements at the national level:



- **Open Statement of the UNP on observance of the European integration commitments of Ukraine in fight against corruption and in government procurement legislation (December 2017).** UNP members addressed the President, Prime Minister and Members of Parliament with a call for not supporting the bill “Buy Ukrainian Goods, Pay to Ukrainians” and not adopting the draft law that would limit the independence of anti-corruption agencies and allow authorities to influence them. The UNP members also called for establishment of an independent anticorruption court;
- **Open letter to the Vice Prime Minister for European and Euro-Atlantic Integration Ivanna Klympush-Tsintsadze** with the appeal to create within the structure of the Government Office for coordination of the European and Euro-Atlantic integration the expert group on issues of Ukraine’s cooperation within the framework of the Eastern Partnership initiative (17 January 2018);
- **Joint Appeal of the UNP WG3 & UA CPS WG5 to the Prime Minister of Ukraine Volodymyr Groysman (14 March 2018)** with a demand to revise the state policy in the sphere of hydro-energy, in particular, to revoke the adopted Programme on hydro-energy development until 2016 (KMU Decree 552-p, 13/07/2016) and to hold national public hearings on its feasibility. The Joint Appeal claimed that the Programme contradicted the commitments of Ukraine under the AA in areas of energy and environment, as well as that some of foreseen hydro-energy projects would bring serious environmental risks.

More information about advocacy activities of the UNP working groups (in Ukrainian) is available at: http://eap-csf.org.ua/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/UNP-Annual-Report-2018_WG-Coordinators.pdf.

PARTICIPATION IN THE ACTIVITIES OF THE EASTERN PARTNERSHIP CIVIL SOCIETY FORUM:

The Ukrainian National Platform of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum takes an active part in the Forum’s work, having been engaged to the range of analytical and advocacy initiatives, as well as participating in various events of the Forum and the EaP.

The important tool for advocating the civil society positions at the level of the EaP and the EU, as well as the tool for pressure on Ukrainian authorities are statements adopted by the Steering Committee of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum. In 2018, the UNP used this tool four times when it initiated and suggested that the EaP CSF would support the following statements:

- **The statement on e-declarations for anticorruption activists (29 March 2018),** in which the EaP CSF Steering Committee reiterated its appeal (voiced first on 30 March 2017) to repeal these legislative norms. The statement was sent to the President, the Prime Minister, the Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Vice Prime Minister for European and Euro-Atlantic Integration of Ukraine.
- **The statement on the 21st FIFA World Cup hosted by the Russian Federation (13 June 2018),** by which the EaP CSF Steering Committee **called upon the governments of participating countries to boycott the 2018 FIFA World Cup tournament in the Russian Federation at the political level.** They also drew attention to the hunger strike of Oleg Sentsov. SC members urged EU institutions and governments of European countries



to put pressure on Russia by all legal means to satisfy Sentsov's demand and to release Ukrainian political prisoners who are being held in Russia on political charges. The statement was sent to the heads of EU institutions, heads of EU and EaP States and Governments, Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Members of Parliament in the EU and EaP states.

- **On 14 September 2018 the EaP CSF Steering Committee addressed with a statement to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe regarding possible cancellation of sanctions imposed to the delegation of the Russian Federation.** SC members called on the members of national delegations to guard against possible moves, which would threaten Council of Europe principles and to reject any resolution by PACE, limiting the role of sanctions against delegations to the Assembly – considering member states' commitments at the time of joining the Council of Europe.
- **Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum (EaP CSF) Steering Committee** by its statement issued on 4 October 2018 called on the **Council of Europe (CoE)**, and the **Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE)**, to consider the fate of more than **100 Ukrainian prisoners**, currently held in either **Russia** or **territories occupied by Russia**. The Steering Committee of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum (EaP CSF) appealed to PACE to use every legal means to force the Russian Federation to fulfil the demand made by Oleg Sentsov, and release all Ukrainian citizens held in Russian prisons on political charges, including Oleg Sentsov himself. Until the Russian Federation meets these demands, stressed SC members, the restoration of full Russian participation in the work of the PACE is immoral and impermissible.
- The UNP representatives took part in preparing the comparative analytical study **“Eastern Partnership Index 2015-2016”** (the Ukrainian part of the survey was prepared with support of the Civic Synergy Project), they also participated in preparation of the EaP CSF position papers in various sectoral policies. The UNP has also made its input to development of the Forum's strategy and the reform proposal.

The UNP delegates who participated in the 9th EaP CSF Annual Assembly (Tallinn, 25-27 October 2017) in 2018 took part in the **annual working groups' meetings**:

- WG1 – taking place on 11-12 September (Brussels);
- WG2 and WG5 – the joint meeting held on 10 July (Brussels);
- WG3 – 12-13 September (Brussels);
- WG4 – 3-4 July (Brussels).

Also, as the member of the EaP CSF Steering Committee, the UNP National Coordinator Hennadiy Maksak took part in the meetings of the EaP CSF which were held:

- 24-25 January (Belgium, Brussels)
- 12-13 April (Belarus, Minsk)
- 8-9 August (Belarus)
- 3-4 October (Moldova, Chisinau).

In addition, the UNP National Coordinator participated in the range of **EaP events**, among which first of all might be mentioned the Senior Officials Meeting (12 March), meeting of the EaP Panel on security, CSDP and civil protection (15 May), 8th Annual meeting of the Conference of the EaP Regional and Local Authorities (CORLEAP) in Kyiv (24 September), the Ministerial meeting held on 15 October 2018.



The coordinator of the Working group 3 “Environment, energy security and climate change” Anna Golubovska-Onisimova participated in the Ministerial conference held in October 2018 in Luxembourg, another UNP WG3 Oleksandra Gumeniuk participated in the 15th meeting of the EaP Transport Panel held in September in Brussels.

Also, Volodymyr Nochvai (Civic Union “Center for innovation development”, UNP) and Oleg Shatberashvili (GFID – Georgian Federation for Information and Documentation) jointly prepared the position paper and presented it at the EaP Panel event “EU4Innovation: Fostering Research-Industry Links” in October 2018.

RE-GRANTING

The projects implemented under the EaP CSF re-granting scheme

Among 13 projects, which received funding under the EaP CSF re-granting scheme 2018, there are projects in each EaP CSF working group where the leading implementer are Ukrainian organizations (to compare, 2 in 2017):

- **Working group 1: NGO “Bureau of Gender Strategies and Budgeting”**, project “Increasing Capacity for Implementing Efficient Gender Policy and Practices in countries of Eastern Partnership – in accordance to “Eastern Partnership – 20 Deliverables for 2020””;
- **Working Group 2: NGO “Centre for Cross-Border Cooperation”**, project “Facilitation of Regional Professional Education in Agriculture and Rural development in EaP countries”;
- **Working Group 3: International Charitable Organization “Information Centre “Green Dossier”**, the project “Environmental Assessment Watch (Implementation of SEA and EIA tools: civil society monitoring of the situation in the target countries)”;
- **Working group 4: NGO “The Centre of Cultural Management”**, the project “Creative Eastern Partnership”;
- **Working group 5: NGO “Bureau for Social and Political Developments”**, the project “Social partnership for equality”.

The Ukrainian NGOs also are engaged to implementation to 7 out of 8 other EaP CSF re-granting projects (as partner organizations).

The projects implemented under the sub-grant component of the Civic Synergy Project



Out of 18 sub-grant projects implemented in 2018, 15 projects were implemented by UNP members (see the table below). Out of [15 projects, implementation of which has launched in November 2018](#), 12 projects will be implemented by UNP members.

The projects implemented during February-December 2018

<i>Cross-cutting issues</i>	<i>Project</i>	<i>NGO – UNP member</i>
	1) EaP Think Bridges: Raising Awareness	NGO "Foreign Policy Council "Ukrainian Prism"
	2) Securing support for the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement in South-Eastern Ukraine	Ilko Kucheriv Democratic Initiatives Foundation
	3) Civil monitoring of draft bills' conformity with AA and EU acquis	"Open Society Foundation" NGO
<i>Security</i>	4) How to combat propaganda: developing strategic recommendations on counteracting Russian information warfare	NGO "Internews Ukraine"
<i>Human rights, social policy and dialogue</i>	5) Civic assessment and advocacy of changes to state citizenship policy in line with Association Agreement	"Europe Without Barriers" NGO
	6) Impact of labor migration of Ukrainian workers on labor markets in Ukraine and the EU as exemplified by construction workers	Trade Union of Construction Workers and the Building Materials Industry of Ukraine
	7) Practice of the Ministry of social policy on the implementation of the "antidiscriminative" EU directives	Bureau of social and political developments
	8) Ensuring equal employment opportunities for persons with disabilities in the context of the Association Agreement implementation – advocacy	NGO "Human Rights"
<i>Economic cooperation, DFCTA, cross-border cooperation, and consumers rights protection</i>	9) Priorities of EU assistance to Ukraine: mutually beneficial alignment	NGO "The Institute for Economic Research and Policy Consulting"
	10) Adaptation to EU legislation: the practice of implementation (for small and medium agro producers)	International Charitable Organization "Information Center 'Green Dossier'"
	11) Integration of Ukrainian SMEs into EU value chains within EU Association agreement	"Easy Business"
	12) Enhancing public influence on development of territorial cooperation of Ukraine, Belarus and Moldova	NGO "Center for Cross-Border Cooperation"
<i>Transport, environment and climate change</i>	13) An environment-minded citizen as a pledge of the successful Association Agreement Implementation	Resource & Analysis Center "Society and Environment"
	14) Public encouragement to launching the European environmental impact assessment procedure in Ukraine	International Charity Organization "Environment-People-Law"



<i>Science, innovations and contacts between people</i>	15) <u>Strengthening civic participation in the development and implementation of Digital Agenda for Ukraine and harmonization of its digital markets with the EU and EaP countries</u>	Civic Union "Center for Innovations Development"
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Within the framework of each project the public and advocacy events were organized (a total number is about 40 events – round tables, trainings and workshops), and the related analytical materials prepared - for instance, analysis of the current public policy and/or legislation, expert recommendations. The brief results of each project are available via this link (in Ukrainian): http://eap-csf.org.ua/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/SS_grantees_2018.pdf.

Several examples of results:

- Under the project “**Civil monitoring of draft bills’ conformity with AA and EU acquis**” (implemented by the Open Society Foundation) the experts of the Parliamentary Expert Group have prepared about 50 expert conclusions concerning different draft laws related to the European integration. These conclusions became the helpful tool for the Parliamentary Committee of the European Integration facilitating decision-making and further support on the submitted draft laws.
- Under the project “**How to combat propaganda: developing strategic recommendations on counteracting Russian information warfare**” (Internews-Ukraine), the publication “[Words and Wars: Ukraine Facing Kremlin Propaganda](#)” was prepared. The book contains analysis of Russian propaganda/disinformation actions perpetrated in Ukraine, including the key messages, approaches, communication channels, etc. It also contains policy recommendations for the international community and the Ukrainian authorities. The publication was presented in Strasbourg, Brussels, Paris and Kyiv.
- Under the project “**Strengthening civic participation in the development and implementation of Digital Agenda for Ukraine and harmonization of its digital markets with the EU and EaP countries**” (Civic Union "Center for Innovations Development") 6 round tables were held, and the analytical materials on each thematic direction were prepared; 6 regional round tables were held also within the framework of the project “**Securing support for the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement in South-Eastern Ukraine**” (Ilko Kucheriv Democratic Initiatives Foundation) where the results of public opinion polls on support of the European integration and reforms were presented and discussed.
- The results of the project “**An environment-minded citizen as a pledge of the successful Association Agreement Implementation**” (Resource & Analysis Center "Society and Environment") were discussed at the press-conference in which the Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine Ostep Semerak also took place. In addition to the analytical materials published within the framework of the project, other media products were prepared like the video movie “10 about 10. Ecological portrait of the citizen of Ukraine”, the article for “the European Pravda” (“The Ecological Consciousness in Ukraine and the EU: top 5 similarities and differences”), radio program, infographics, etc.



GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE PLATFORM AND ITS WORKING GROUPS:

New regulation

The **UNP Strategic Plan** adopted in December 2017 became a basic document used by the Platform's Steering Committee and working groups when elaboration operation plans. **"Organization and Communication Principles"**, also adopted in December 2017, allowed to organize the internal communication rules within the Platform as well as procedures for external communication and decision-making on the UNP's position papers.

One of the goals of the newly adopted **"Membership policy"** was to engage to the Platform strong and professional organizations, capable to strengthen the UNP's general potential and influence.

Membership

Talking about new members, 2018 became more efficient for the UNP than 2017. Since the new membership policy had been developing in the previous year, not more than 10 NGO were accepted to the Platform in 2017, whereas approximately 60 NGOs had been staying "in the waiting list" until adoption of the new regulations. But in 2018 more than 20 NGOs were accepted according to the new rules.

Currently, after re-registration of the membership held in 2018, the number of UNP members is about 130 civil society organizations (NGOs, trade unions, employers' organizations, charitable organizations).

The special leaflet on how to join the Platform and the advantages of being the member of the UNP was elaborated in 2018, and this document now is spread at the UNP events with other Platform's materials.

As it has been already mentioned, a synergy between working groups within the Platform as well as between two Ukrainian platforms became the trend for 2018.

For instance, the UNP Working Group 3 "Environment, climate change and energy security" and the UA CSP Working Group 5 "Energy, transport, climate change and environment" closely cooperate with each other on a regular basis; the working groups also held two joint meetings (7 November 2017 and 6 March 2018).

The UNP Working group 4 "Contacts between people" also held a joint meeting with the UA CSP WG 6 "Science and technologies, information society, education, training and youth, culture and sports" on 16 April 2018. The meeting was devoted to the issues of culture.

Also, as the new important trend, including at the mentioned meetings, the new format of meetings became a tendency – when representatives of authorities or other stakeholders participated in the meetings. Usually at the joint meetings the statements of position papers were also adopted.

Moreover, in July 2018 the Working group 3 "Environment, climate change and energy security" (coordinator – A.Golubovska-Onisimova) held the joint meeting with the ecological working group of the Moldovan National Platform (coordinator – Ina Coseru).

In July 2018 the WG 4 "Contacts between people" also tried to organize the meeting in the format slightly different than usual, having held the retreat meeting in Ivano-Frankivsk and having organized for the WG members the orientation excursion on social entrepreneurship.



In their turn, in the light of future uniting of the WG2 and WG5 at the EaP CSF level, the UNP Working groups 2 and 5 also held in October 2018 their joint meeting during which they discussed the common spheres of cooperation, and mechanisms for interaction.

In general, the number of UNP WG members increased who take part in the “minor” working groups in addition to their “major” ones.

Visibility and communication

Since 2017 the UNP’s newsletter has been published regularly highlighting the activities of the Ukrainian National Platform as well as of the EaP CSF and the Civic Synergy Project.

Since January 2018 this newsletter is prepared as a joint newsletter of both Ukrainian platforms – the EaP CSF Ukrainian National Platform and the Ukrainian Side of the EU-Ukraine Civil Society Forum.

In addition to the UNP webpage (<http://eap-csf.org.ua/>) and its Facebook group (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/EaPukr/>) since the end of 2018 the official Facebook page of the Ukrainian National Platform launched to operate (<https://www.facebook.com/unp.eap.csf/>). It is united with the Facebook group functioning since the time when the UNP has started to operate in Ukraine (2011), and, altogether, they have up to 1800 followers.

To increase visibility of the working groups, in 2018 the UNP Steering Committee addressed to the working group members with a request to mention the fact of their belonging to the UNP when highlighting their activities held under the Civic Synergy’s grant projects or the EaP CSF re-granting scheme.

EVALUATION OF PLATFORM’S ACTIVITIES IN 2018: ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES

Assessing the UNP’s achievements in 2018, one might conclude that the Platform has become the visible entity among the wide range of actors working in the sphere of the European integration. It is engaged into consultations and dialogue with the authorities, and some events of the Platform have been organized in close cooperation with stakeholders.

The visibility and impact has increased not only at the national level –the analytical materials prepared by the UNP members both in Ukrainian and English are noticed and read now also at the EU level.





The Platform has had the opportunities to develop its institutional capacities – to organize regular meetings of the working groups and other events, uniting the efforts and creating a synergy between the civil society organizations.

Thus, the UNP has managed to develop a large-scale activity during the recent 2 years including 2018. To a major extent, these changes have become possible with coordination and financial support of the Civic Synergy Project. It is questionable, however, if this development is sustainable, and if the Platform will be able to preserve its status and influence without the similar support in the future, after 2019.

