



## Annual Activities Report 2018

### WORKING GROUP 3

#### ANNUAL WORKING GROUP MEETING:

On 12-13 September, Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum (EaP CSF) Working Group 3 “Environment, climate change and energy security” held their annual meeting in Brussels to discuss new EaP architecture, Internal Reform and upcoming changes to the Forum. This was also a chance to look at specific issues affecting the EaP region. The discussions gave way to a list of recommendations on topics



such as environment, transport, energy and energy efficiency – which were presented to the EU stakeholders, invited to attend the meeting on the second day. Members also had a chance to attend a training session, aimed at improving communications skills and delivering messages to stakeholders.

More info here: <http://eap-csf.eu/eap-csf-working-group-3-environment-climate-change-and-energy-security-discusses-internal-reform>

### ACTIVITIES OF THE WG3 OF THE NATIONAL PLATFORMS

#### Moldova

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.

## Ukraine

Environmental policy integration into other economic sectors policy (energy, transport, agriculture) was the integral thematic priority including:

**Integrated water resources management and protection of water ecosystems:** In the framework of advocacy campaign on implementing the environmental approach to hydroenergy development, the Statement to Prime-Minister was prepared and submitted demanding the revision of the state policy of hydroenergy development, better public involvement and proper environmental impact assessment. The Roundtable on environmental aspects of hydroenergy development in Ukraine was organised by NECU and conducted in the Parliament premises in April with participation of People's Deputies, Government, Ministry of Ecology and Ministry of Energy, Ukrhydroenergo, State Water Agency, National Academy of Science, CSOs and Local Authorities with overall number of (about 50 participants). This event was organised in the framework of Synergy project's granting component. In July, Ad Hoc joint session of the Ukrainian and Moldovan National Platforms WG3 was held in Kyiv dedicated to ecological problems of hydroenergy development (about 30 participants), with participation of the Ministry of Ecology and Ukrhydroenergo and CSF WG3 Co-ordinator, resulted into joint Statement addressed Prime-Minister of Ukraine, Ministry of Ecology and Ministry of Energy, EU Delegation to Ukraine. (English version is annexed to this report). The campaign's most active participants are member organisations NECU (National Environmental Center of Ukraine), EPL (Environment-People-Law), EC Kraj (Environmental Club Kraj).

**Good environmental governance development including monitoring and implementation of the EIA and SEA new instruments:** Key event was conducted as side-event "Good Environmental Governance in Ukraine: challenges and achievements" organised by UNENGO MAMA-86 and UNP in June at the Sixth Meeting of the EaP Panel on Environment and Climate Change (15 participants) in Kyiv. WG 3 advocates for environmental governance reform to implement European Good Governance principals of transparency, participation, accountability, effectiveness and coherence in Environmental sphere, the main challenge of which achieving environmental policy integration for sustainable development. The correspondent provisions should be implemented according the Luxembourg Declaration of EaP Environmental Ministers. Speakers included Deputy Minister for European integration of the Ministry of Ecology and representatives of UNENGO MAMA-86, RAC "Society and environment", IC "Green Dossier". The latter represented analytics on Good environmental governance assessments including: the assessment of GEG principals implementation in general, special questionnaire developed for deeper assessment of the Ministry of ecology GEG's performance and the assessment of mass-media reflection of GEG and environmental policy issues. This work was supported by the Synergy project's granting component. Link to the event (Eng): <https://mama-86.org/index.php/en/ecologization/news/90-the-results-of-the-project-monitoring-and-assessment-of-the-implementation-by-ukraine-of-the-luxembourg-declaration-provisions-related-to-environmental-governance-are-presented>



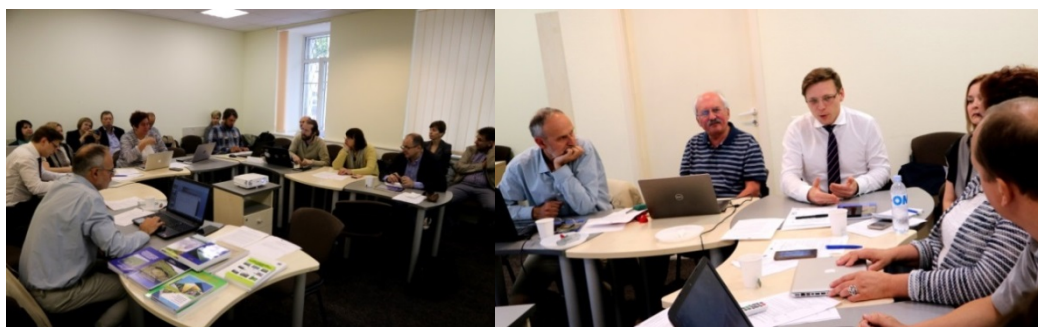
EPL has conducted 5 trainings for SCO and business on the EIA implementation procedure and participation mode in different regions of Ukraine (overall number of participant about 150) supported by the Synergy project's granting component.

**20 achievements monitoring in environmental and energy spheres:** Members of WG3 took part in correspondent sections of monitoring and interim assessment of 20 achievements in environment and energy spheres, chapter 15 and 16. The document was submitted to the European Commission and presented by the UNP Chair at the high level EaP events. Link to the document (Eng) <https://www.civic-synergy.org.ua/en/analytics/ukraine-in-the-coordinates-of-the-eastern-partnership-2017-2020/>

**Introduction and beginning of new direction of work – transport and connectivity:** Kick-off meeting with CSOs-candidates to be involved into this theme work was held in July. Representative of European-Ukrainian Energy Agency coordinated preparation of a joint Statement on sustainable transport issues (WG3 of 6 national platforms) including the critique of water way E40, proposals on road safety, decarbonization of transport and infrastructure, improvement of connectivity, etc., which was submitted to the European Commission. New member organization Association of cyclists also took part in consultations, as well as WG2 members.

**Environment and agriculture:** IC Green Dossier is running permanent consultations with Ministry of Agriculture concerning environmental pillar of new laws, which are being drafted. Interim result is that unsustainable law on rural territories development didn't pass first reading in the Parliament and new law is being prepared. These activities are supported by the Synergy project's granting component.

**Implementation of multilateral environmental agreements:** In cooperation with WG5 of the Ukrainian Side of Civil Society Platform, WG3 member organizations and their experts prepared an analytical paper "How to improve the efficiency of implementation of international multilateral environmental agreements in Ukraine" in order to assess the state of implementation of international agreements in the field of environmental protection, to which Ukraine is a party, identify key issues and benefits from the proper implementation of conventions and protocols, identify risks from the ineffective implementation of international legal instruments, and provide recommendations to stakeholders how to improve the effectiveness of international environmental commitments of Ukraine. Interim result is that the information on MEAs to which Ukraine is a party appeared to the Ministry's website. Meeting on each thematic block were held between participating CSOs and ministerial staff.



**Overall outcomes** of the UNP WG3 activities is that the group and its members are well-recognised among main stakeholders, actively participates (both, initiating and being invited) in dialogues with the Government and the EU Delegation on European reforms and advocates for changes, which are slowly but implemented.

## Belarus

The WG3 activities of the Belarus National Platform of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum in 2018 were aimed at realizing the goals of this year and at increasing participation in the work of the group of new organizations. 2018 is the time to further advance the ideas of the **Covenant of Mayors on Energy and Climate**. At present, its signatories are 44 cities of Belarus, in which about 3 million people live. 10 plans were developed for long-term sustainable energy development. All plans provide for the revitalization of the work of local authorities with the population and NGOs. The implementation of actions to coordinate the Covenant of Mayors is carried out by the Interaction Foundation and the Ecopartnership.

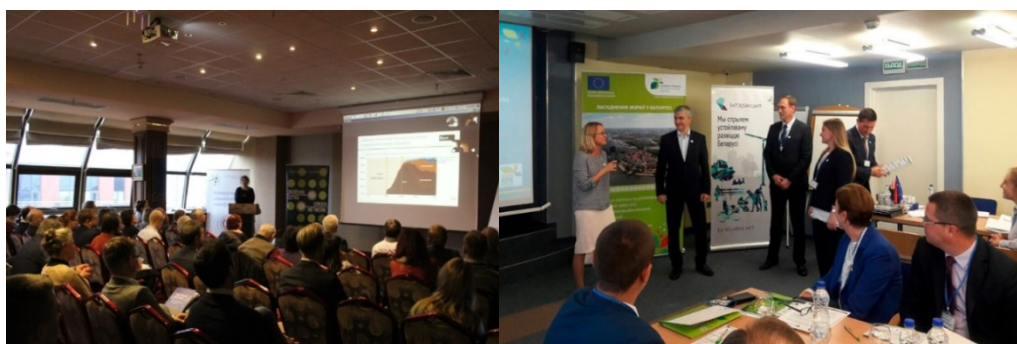
Also with the participation of Belarusian public organizations, the GEF-UNDP project **“Belarus: supporting green urban planning in small and medium cities of Belarus”** and the **EU4EnergyEfficiency program**, which involves the Department of Energy Efficiency, the Ministry of Energy, the Ministry of Transport, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection, are being implemented.

With the active participation of public organizations of Belarus, with the support of Coalition Clean Baltic and SIDA, the project **“Prevention of pollution of water bodies through public and professional education”** was implemented.

The Green Network partnership traditionally supported the **Hour of the Earth, Lets do it Belarus!**, European Mobility Week, in which activities in the cities of the country were coordinated by NGOs.

The Minsk Bicycle Society, together with the Center for Environmental Solutions, is implementing the project **“City Bicycle Traffic in Belarus”**, in which the initiatives of public organizations were supported during the European Mobility Week.

On October 23, 2018, a presentation of the **“energy evolution for Belarus”** scenario was held, prepared by Ecohome NGO in partnership with the Green Network Partnership and the Department of Systems Analysis and the Aerospace Center of Germany with the support of the Heinrich Böll Foundation.





The achievement of the year is the **adoption of the Law of the Republic of Belarus “On the production and circulation of organic products”**. The work on it was carried out for more than five years. Specialists of the Center for Environmental Solutions provided consultancy to the legislative working group at all stages of the law development.



To date, government agencies have not adopted an action plan to achieve the goals of the Luxembourg Declaration on Cooperation in Environmental Protection and Climate Change. Unfortunately, the key aspects of achieving an appropriate level of environmental governance, which include the participation of stakeholders in the discussion and making of strategic decisions, access to information, transparency and accountability, are not only not implemented, but not voiced in the process of the existing small dialogue between the authorities and NGOs as part of the Eastern Partnership process.

Situations continue to arise in the country when the principles of good environmental management are ignored. This was manifested this year in the situation with the construction of roads in the Olmansky swamps, during the construction of the battery plant in Brest, and during the operation of the pulp mill in Svetlogorsk.



## Armenia

The priorities of the group are the following:

- promotion of green energy as a component of green economy
- environment and environmental legislation
- transport



- climate change

The following measures were carried out:

After ratification of the Aarhus Convention, **NGOs of Armenia managed to create a network of Aarhus Centers in all marzes (regions) and large cities of Armenia (a network of 15 centers)**. For many years, the OSCE has supported the activities of the centers, which contributed to the development of civil initiatives in the regions. Currently, in connection with the termination of the activities of the OSCE Office in Yerevan, problems have arisen for the activities of environmental NGOs. During the year, the initiators of this network made efforts to restore and update the activities of the network with their own funds. The relevance of the network has increased, especially after the signing of the EU-Armenia Agreement, which contains well-known provisions on nature conservation and approximation with the provisions of EU legislation. It was decided to focus on the “access to justice”, one of the three provisions of the Aarhus Convention, which is mentioned in the EU-Armenia agreement. At the same time, steps were taken to ratify the PRTR Protocol on Pollution Registers and Transfer. The government avoids joining this protocol in every way though the NGOs promote the idea of the protocol ratification by the government. For the time being, the Ministry of Nature Protection and the Focal Point of the Convention did not respond to the request of NGOs to urge the ratification of the protocol.

**A workshop on the exchange of information on the principles of advanced experience for consultations with interested parties and interstate coordination** was held on September 13, 2018 in Yerevan. The group actively participated in the seminar. At the seminar, WG3 stressed the importance of public participation in the adoption of legislative acts. An electronic platform for discussing drafts of e-draft legislative acts does not solve the problem of public participation, since the proposals are not taken into account and there is no way to find out why those were not considered. Thus a new approach should be discussed to comment on the drafts of the laws by environmental NGOs where clear explanations of each comment will be included, whether it is considered or if not, what is the reason.

**Implementation of the Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement.** It is known that according to the Paris Agreement and the decisions of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention COP-22 and COP-23, a platform has been created for non-state actors who are ready to assume obligations to implement the main provision of the Agreement - to prevent the global temperature from increasing by 2C. In this regard, the “Under 2 Coalition” initiative was launched in the world, to which out of 6 EaP countries only Armenia has joined. However, within Armenia only 3 regions (marz) of 10 signed a memorandum and joined the coalition.

WG3 has taken steps:

- To convince the remaining 7 regions of Armenia to join. For this purpose, 4 meetings were held at the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Development.
- Contributed to the formation of technological and financial mechanisms of the Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDC) of Armenia for the



implementation of projects to mitigate climate change and promote adaptation measures in local communities, including indigenous people, especially Yezidis and Aysor (Assyrians), deprived of their states.

In the field of energy: together with the 2nd group of the Armenian national platform WG3 discussed the environmental, social and economic aspects of the Energy strategy of Armenia.

**Transport issues** were discussed with the second group of Armenian NP. As regards the 3rd group, the following proposals were made:

- development of the metro (over the years of independence, no new station was built),
- Improving the financial mechanism to promote emission reductions. Currently, the emission fee is charged not for emissions, but for the car, regardless of whether it is operated or not. This is, in essence, a property tax. In accordance with the new tax code, the fee for all forms of environmental impact was renamed “tax”, which does not correspond to the concept “tax”.

In the transboundary context, the consequences of CO2 emissions due to the blockade of the transport routes of Armenia (railway transport), as well as lack of access to the sea for Armenia were considered.

(Within the framework of the Vienna Program for Landlocked Developing Countries, Armenia, in its national component, provided measures relating to climate change, bearing in mind the development of measures to limit greenhouse gas emissions from international freight and passenger traffic. However, it was found out, that the government does not take any action).

- Bicycle traffic is increasing, however, spontaneously and under the "pressure" of young people. The city authorities do not seem to notice or take steps to create comfort for cyclists. Instead of bicycle lanes, practically all streets have “red lines” along the streets, paid parking places are created that make it impossible and dangerous to cycle along the streets. There are no bicycle parking places.
- The development of electric transport is practically absent: trams have been abolished, trolleybuses recruit passengers in small quantities. Public electric transport could significantly reduce emissions of pollutants and greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. As in Armenia, 70% of electricity is generated at the expense of carbon neutral technologies (hydroelectric power plants and nuclear power plants).
- From January of next year, Georgia prohibits heavy cargo transportation through its territory. This is a matter of concern, since it will primarily lead to a price increase for grain and its products. Naturally, this will also lead to an increase in specific emissions of pollutants and greenhouse gases per unit of cargo being transported.
- It can be noted that motor transport, including public, is largely gasified (with natural gas), which positively affects the quality of atmospheric air in cities and the global “climatic” impact due to relatively low greenhouse gas emissions (CO2).



**In the field of waste: Loaning History of Yerevan Landfill Site.** Whose interests does the new loaning project of Nubarashen landfill site serves, whether it meets the requirements of Yerevan residents and what will be done, if 26 million Euros will be invested? These issues were raised during the discussion of 'Garbage for Money: Yerevan Solid Household wastes' project held at EcoLur Press Club on 14 April.



The presenters screened 'Loaning History of Yerevan Landfill Site' shot by EcoLur, which presents Yerevan Deputy Mayor Vahe Nikoyan's attitude towards Yerevan solid waste project, as the representative of Yerevan Municipality, while in Aram Gabrielyan's opinion, expert of 'Khazer' environmental and cultural NGO, the project shall be revised, as Armenia should gradually refuse from the landfill site as such.

The solid project of Yerevan, particularly, plans the construction of a new landfill site adjacent to Nubarashen landfill site, purchase of professional means and equipment and isolation of the surface of the existing landfill site. The participants outlined that for year the methane gas accumulated in Nubarashen landfill site has been burnt down with losses occurred, with little opportunity to get electricity. It was also mentioned that the largest omission of this loaning project is the absence of sorting and recycling components, so it turns out that garbage will be collected for 30 years.



For the purposes of the construction of a new urban landfill site in Yerevan, Yerevan Municipality has received a loan of 16 million Euros from the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and a grant of 10 million Euros from the EU and E5P Fund (The Eastern Energy Efficiency and Environment Partnership). The discussion was organized by EcoLur Informational NGO with

'Khazer' environmental and cultural NGO.

In October 2018, environmental NGOs together with their colleagues from the Armenian National Platform of EaP CSF met with various governmental structures in the premises of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia.



## Georgia

Georgian National Platform in 2018 developed activities in direction of Energy, Climate Change and Environment. The first issue about which WG3 discussed was a subject of **increasing the energy tariffs in Georgia, energy safety and challenges related to energy policy in Georgia**. WG3 decided to send the letter to Georgian Energy Regulating Commission requesting explanations regarding to increasing of tariffs. Head of Enterprise Innovation Development Center Mr. Tamaz Vashakidze together with Greens Movement of Georgia and Foundation Caucasus Environment sent the letter to ECF and EaP 3 coordinators. Letter was presented at Ministerial, Luxemburg 9<sup>th</sup> October 2018. Response on the letter was that “EU4Energy to assist Georgia in developing energy performance of buildings calculation methodology”. Otherwise members underlined importance of development of alternative energy in Georgia. Head of renewable energy sector of Energy Efficiency Centre Mrs. Manana Dadiani at the WG3 meeting presented report on Development of the First National Action Plan on Renewable Energy.

Other main issue which has been analyzed and discussed by the members of WG3 was implementation of Water Framework Directive in Georgia. Foundation Caucasus Environment which was a partner organization in re-granted project **EURO AQUA: AA-driven INTEGRATED LOCAL WATER GOVERNANCE in EaP** by Dr. Manana Devidze made presentation on Implementation of Water Framework Directive in Georgia. Water resources management system in Georgia currently is regulated by the Law on Water, 1997. WG3 members considered that this law does not provide regulations on formation of the river basins according to WFD. Since 2010 the Ministry of Environment has started preparation of new Law on Management of Water Resources in framework of WFD including the River Basin Management. Adopting by Georgian Parliament the new law and approval of the law by the Georgian government are delayed. By the end of this year (2018) it is expected to approve this new law by the Georgian Government. Based on this discussion of WG3 group members planned to hold the meeting with Eurointegration Committee to send the Law on Water Management in time to Georgian Parliament according to EU-Georgia Association Agreement, which states that the country has been taken obligation to start implementation of WFD since 2016. Nongovernmental organization “Green Alternative” prepared publication with comments and findings on Chorokhi-Ajaristskali River Basin Management Plan. Involvement of local community at the early stage of preparation of management plan was not provided.

Several meetings, discussions, round tables and dialogues in the framework of WFD and Water Initiative were held with the participation Civil Society organizations. WG3 members mentioned about the complicated situations between the local population and governmental institutions where population protected rivers against the construction of hydropower stations.



WG3 member Green Movement of Georgia coordinated by Mrs. Nino Chkhobadze developed the project **Clean Up Georgia** which successfully was implemented in different regions of Georgia.

Climate Change initiatives were developed by the WG3 members “**World Experience Georgia (WEG)**” and “**Foundation Caucasus Environment**”.



WEG prepared Second Biennial Report (BUR) of Georgia to UNFCCC. Giorgi Mukhigulishvili from the WEG made presentation “Mitigation Policies and Actions - Second Biennial Update Report of Georgia to UNFCCC at the BUR Final Workshop on 26 November, Tbilisi.





At the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of the EU-Georgia Civil Society Platform, 22 November 2018, Brussels, Mrs. Manana Devidze Foundation Caucasus Environment made presentation **“EU-Georgia cooperation in combating the climate change”**.

On Climate Change WG3 of EaP CSF Georgian National Platform and EU-Georgia Civil Society Platform submitted **declaration to EESC European Economic and Social Committee** with the following proposals:

***For Climate Change declaration:***

1. One of the priority issues on global climate change is the preservation and protection of forest ecosystems. This can be achieved through sustainable forest management adapted to climate change, that should be reflected in the relevant legislation.
2. The Black Sea coastal zone in Georgia is more vulnerable to climate change as several mangrove areas and wetlands are located in Kolkheti Valley. The raising of the Black Sea level threatens with covering the lowland by the marine water and losses of the big part of the land in western Georgia.

Therefore the government of Georgia must stop issuing the permits for construction of big hydropower stations which reduce accumulation of gravel in coast of the Sea and cause degradation of the coastal zone. To start the climate change adaptive management plan for Georgian coastal zone of the Black Sea and to create legislation for mitigation and adaptation to climate change, impact assessment on Kolkheti Lowland is very important for Georgia.

3. Adoption of the changes in Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) by the Parliament of Georgia which has been initiated by the Ministry of Environment and Agriculture of Georgia; To promote harmonization of the changes in the MSFD by the countries of the Black Sea Basin.
4. Georgian Government focuses mainly on hydro resources of the rivers and does not prioritize such resources as solar and wind energy. It is also important to create legislation on energy efficiency, which unfortunately, has not been adopted yet.

**On energy issues:**

In **Georgia, Ukraine and Moldova**, members of WG3 have developed jointly several projects promoting consistently the implementation of EU's agenda in the energy sector in EaP. Cooperation between energy CSOs in the three countries is facilitated by the countries' common obligations on energy as members of the Energy Community and as signatories of AA with the EU, which is ideal for benchmarking / comparisons and sharing of experiences. However, in the other three EaP countries there are less instruments for advocacy and also lower participation in WG3 in energy.

**In 2018, WG3 organizations** (EFOR, WEG, Dixi, Expert Grup, Strategy XXI, plus affiliated experts in the database) **continued research and advocacy started with a regranting**





project in 2017 that had benchmarked energy regulators (<http://eap-csf.eu/energy-watchdog-coalition/>). The initial effort was scaled up to broader comparative issues in the energy sector, focusing on interconnectivity of energy markets with the EU; transparency of energy trading, including in separatist regions; and Russian influence in the energy sector. 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. In Moldova (Expert Grup, Watchdog.MD), Georgia (WEG), Ukraine (Dixi Grup) as EaP members and in Romania (EFOR) and Hungary (K-Monitor) from the EU are jointly implementing a research on Russian influence through the energy sector. The research continues a previous report (<https://expertforum.ro/en/energy-russian-influence-and-democratic-backsliding-in-central-and-eastern-europe/>) with updates, a new report for Georgia and advocacy at national level and with EU key counterparts in Brussels and Berlin. In the two capitals WG3 energy members will use the opportunity also to advocate directly against North Stream 2, a project in EU that affects EaP interests. The research is on-going and the reports (country chapters and comparative report) would be available in early 2019. In Georgia, Ukraine and Moldova, members of WG3 are finalizing a re-granting project (Transparent Energy Trading in Secessionist Regions - <http://eap-csf.eu/transparent-energy-trading-in-secessionist-regions/>) which will highlight corruption and broader governance risks from shady energy deals in separatist regions in the three countries. The draft country reports are currently being consulted with national stakeholders (key ministries, regulators, experts etc).

**WG3 membership thus contributed to creating a regional network of organizations who joined efforts in reforming their energy sectors.** Deliverables from individual projects of WG3 members, which consist of advocacy for reforms in the energy sector (transparency, better regulation, good governance), are leveraged through EaP CSF channels. WG3 communicates key messages from such research and projects to EU audiences and outside stakeholders, in events such as Panel and Platform meetings, while supporting dissemination of EU priorities at local level.

### Issues raised by WG members at EaP Platforms and Panel meetings and WG meetings:

The key messages on environment / climate change and energy promoted by WG3 members are summarized in the two position papers:

- **Environment:**[http://eap-csf.eu/wp-content/uploads/EaP-CSF-position-paper\\_Environment\\_final.pdf](http://eap-csf.eu/wp-content/uploads/EaP-CSF-position-paper_Environment_final.pdf)
- **Energy:**[http://eap-csf.eu/wp-content/uploads/EaP-CSF-position-paper\\_25\\_05\\_Energy\\_Printed.pdf](http://eap-csf.eu/wp-content/uploads/EaP-CSF-position-paper_25_05_Energy_Printed.pdf)



The position papers, prepared in May 2018, summarize key issues in EaP countries in the two sectors and provide recommendations from a broad WG3 membership to EU counterparts. The messages were repeated throughout 2018 with only minor updates, as recommendations are valid in the medium term.

### Issues raised at the EU level:

- EaP CSF representative, Olexandra Gumeniuk, delivered recommendations on 14<sup>th</sup> Transport Panel held in Brussels on the 17<sup>th</sup> April 2018:  
<https://eap-csf.eu/eap-csf-discussed-on-transport-policy-reforms-in-the-eap-at-14th-panel-on-transport/>
- EaP CSF representatives, Olexandra Gumeniuk and Iryna Kosse, delivered recommendations on 15<sup>th</sup> Transport Panel held on the 28<sup>th</sup> September 2018 in Brussels:  
<http://eap-csf.eu/eap-csf-delivers-recommendations-on-road-safety-and-transport-infrastructure-at-the-15th-eap-transport-panel/>
- EaP CSF representatives, Ruslan Surugiu and Ina Coseru, delivered recommendations on Environment and Energy at the EaP Platform 3 Meeting:  
<https://eap-csf.eu/eap-csf-delivers-recommendations-on-environment-and-energy-at-the-eap-platform-3-meeting/>
- WG3 members, Ina Coseru and Anna Golubovska-Onisimova participated in the Panel on Environment and Climate Change which was held in Kyiv on 12-13 June 2018. Recommendations shared with the delegates of the Panel could be found here:  
<http://eap-csf.eu/eap-csf-delivers-recommendations-on-eu4climate-and-eu4environment-programmes-at-the-eap-panel-on-environment-and-climate-change-in-kyiv/>
- WG3 members, Ina Coseru and Anna Golubovska-Onisimova, participated in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Ministerial Conference on Environment and Climate Change which was held on the 9<sup>th</sup> of October 2018 in Luxembourg. Here is the link to the recommendations shared by the EaP CSF representatives with the delegates of the Conference:  
<http://eap-csf.eu/eap-csf-shares-their-recommendations/>
- EaP CSF, represented by Ana-Otilia Nutu, contributed to the 7th Workshop of the Eastern Partnership Energy Regulatory Bodies: <http://eap-csf.eu/eap-csf-contributes-to-the-7th-workshop-of-the-eastern-partnership-energy-regulatory-bodies/>. The first day consisted of a conference hosted by the Hungarian energy regulator, with participants from energy regulators in EU (Hungary, Czech Republic, Austria) and EaP (Moldova, Ukraine, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Armenia), ministries of energy (Belarus), European Commission, energy companies, Energy Community Secretariat, Council of European Energy Regulators (CEER). The second day comprised a field trip to the Natural Gas Transmission company FGSZ – the main transmission node in Vecses. The meeting was chaired by Marion Schiller-Probst, DG Energy, European Commission and Dietmar Preinstorfer, Head of International Relations of the Austrian Energy regulator. The Platform meeting was attended by one WG3 representative of civil society – Otilia Nutu (Romania).



EaP CSF representatives, Ina Coseru and Giorgi Mukhigulishvili also participated in the **EU Green Week** organised on 21-25 May 2018 in Brussels. The main topic of the event was “Green Cities – Greener Future”. Green Week is an annual event focusing on the sustainable development and organized by the EU with a range of activities and debates, usually around a specific theme. In 2018 Green Week took place during 21-25 May and focused on the ways in which the EU is helping cities to become better places to live and work. Showcasing policy developments on a range of environmental challenges, it promoted participatory approaches to urban development, networking schemes, and tools for sharing best practices. Its main event took place in Brussels on 22-24 May. On 25th of May the workshop on Green Cities for Citizens’ Wellbeing in the Eastern Neighbourhood was organized under the Eastern Partnership (EaP) umbrella in Brussels, back-to-back with the EU Green Week 2018.

The proportion of the global population living in cities and towns is expected to rise from 54 percent in 2015 to 66 percent by 2050. Most of this transition will take place in the Global South, especially in Asia and Africa, and will require a significant expansion of existing cities, as well as the construction of new cities. Business as usual could result in the annual resource requirements of urban areas growing from 40 billion tonnes in 2010 to nearly 90 billion tonnes by 2050. The high demand for such raw materials will far exceed what the planet can sustainably provide. Resources should now become a central policy concern, in addition to concerns over CO<sub>2</sub>, which are now well recognized. In addition, the long-term historic sprawl of cities by 2 percent per year threatens to increase global urban land use from just below 1 million km to over 2.5 million km by 2050, putting agricultural land and food supplies at risk. Cities that become more resource-efficient in transport, commercial buildings, and building heating/cooling could achieve reductions of between 36 to 54 percent in energy use, GHG emissions, metals, land and water use.

A transition towards low-carbon, resource-efficient and socially just cities is crucial to advance towards the Sustainability Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda. The concept of ‘urban metabolism’ (the flow of resources through a city) is used to frame thinking about how cities can improve citizens’ access to essential services (a focus on well-being for all) while managing their resources wisely and producing minimal waste. This transition could be achieved through shifting from ‘linear’ to ‘circular’ economy approach, which implies new ways of managing the movement of resources through the city. A circular economy is a regenerative system in which resource input and waste, emission, and energy leakage are minimized by slowing, closing, and narrowing energy and material loops. This can be achieved through long-lasting design, maintenance, repair, reuse, remanufacturing, refurbishing, and closed recycling loops. This is in contrast to a linear economy which is a ‘take, make, dispose’ model of production.

On 22 of May, during High-level Conference “Green Cities for a Greener Future” one session was devoted to Cities Needs in Transition to a Circular Economy. The session was focused on the needs for cities to work towards a transition to a circular economy, barriers and challenges identified and possible solutions to remove them.

During the session on Greening your city: sharing learnings from the experience of European Green Capital and Green Leaf cities, Oslo (Norway), Copenhagen (Denmark), Bristol (UK), Mollet Del Valles (Spain), Torres Vedras (Portugal) shared their experiences, lessons learned, challenges and achievements to the audience.

To move towards the achievement of the sustainable development goals, it is not just about greening the cities in the EU, but to promote it in developing world as well. Cities in the developing world are struggling to cope with environmental challenges that are often more serious than in Europe. And this has not only environmental but also deep social and economic consequences: pollution, public health issues, disaster vulnerability, etc. On the session Greening cities in our partner countries the importance of international development cooperation in support of global solutions for greening cities were highlighted and illustrated with real stories.

During a session Cities as actors of open innovation: accelerating sustainable urban transformation highlighted that today, more than half of the world's population lives in urban areas, where they feel the impacts of climate change, disasters, air pollution, migration and other major global challenges. They need to adapt and plan for resilience and sustainability. However, cities and metropolitan regions are also centers of economic growth, prosperity and increased resource consumption, where demand for water, energy and food is projected to increase by 30-50% by the year 2030. This rapid urbanization requires an integrated perspective on urban planning, design and finance which is able to create synergies between systems. Investing in EU R&I to foster the urban nexus approach is an urgent must to integrate many successful but still fragmented examples of Smart and Sustainable cities. Such a systemic vision puts emphasis on co-design, co-creation and co-implementation of different solutions at the intersection of digital, social, cultural and nature-based innovation, which is at the heart of Horizon 2020.

Buildings in cities account for nearly 50% of the EU's energy consumption and over a third of its CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. The Sustainable Development Goals, with SDG11 focusing on Sustainable Cities, and the New Urban Agenda, as well as the EU's Energy Performance of Buildings Directive have highlighted the importance of investing in sustainable housing and resilient infrastructure, to meet the requirements regarding energy efficiency, nature-based solutions as well as to mitigate climate change, boost the economy and create job opportunities. These benefits represent great prospects not only for the future of cities and their infrastructure, whether in buildings or transportation, but also for the prosperity of their citizens. Those issues were discussed on the session Investing in a greener urban future. Towards sustainable housing and low- emission infrastructure.

On 25th of May workshop on GREEN CITIES FOR CITIZENS' WELLBEING IN THE EASTERN NEIGHBOURHOOD took place back-to-back with the EU Green Week 2018. It gave an opportunity to exchange views and experience and to discuss



possible joint activities in this field. Cities need to urgently adopt circular economy principles to tackle issues such as waste management, energy use and efficiency, air pollution or water management. The discussions were framed by the relevant parts of the 2017 Eastern Partnership Summit Declaration and the EaP Ministerial Declaration on Cooperation on Environment and Climate Change adopted in Luxembourg in 2016. The Declaration raises, among other issues, the need to "support the promotion of the Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy initiative, green cities, and sustainable urban development to achieve the green economy goals". Specific targets for translating these goals into action are identified in the "20 Deliverables for 2020" document, which is an outline for joint action in the coming years. During the workshop representative of DG Environment discussed about EU policies promoting green cities. Plans under the commission on greening cities at the European level are the following:

- 7th Environment Action Programme 2014-2020
- Circular economy action plan, December 2015
- EU Urban Agenda (Pact of Amsterdam, May 2018)
- Plastics Strategy (January 2018) + Single-use plastics legislative proposal (May 2018)
- Revision of the EU waste targets (entry into force expected by June 2018)
- A Europe that protects: Clean air for all (May 2018)

The discussion was followed by examples of actions in EaP countries – Belarus, Ukraine, Moldova, Azerbaijan and Georgia.

On the workshop civil society representatives (from Georgia and Moldova) stressed the importance of such events and noted that they facilitate and enhance development of good practices in developing countries; since political will stays as a key driver of the city development active participation of its representatives in such events and close



communication with each other will foster inter-city learning networks. They pointed out that establishing awards like European Green Capital and Green Leaf awards under Covenant of Mayors will facilitate and inspire decision makers in EaP countries to share good practices and implement innovative and sustainable measures in their cities.

### ADVOCACY CONDUCTED BY WG 3

#### 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.

Mykola Kuzio, Deputy Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine on European Integration took part in the meeting, as well as Gulyaeva Oksana and Kucher Sergey, representatives of "Ukrhydroenergo".

The position of the environmental NGOs of Ukraine, members of WG3 of the UNP of EaP CSF was presented by Petro Testsov ("Ecology-Law-Man") with the participation of Anatoly Pavelko (Bureau of Environmental Investigations), Oleksandr Vasilyuk (Institute of Zoology of the National Academy of Sciences), Ruslan Havrylyuk (National Ecological Center of Ukraine), Alexander Stepanenko ("Green World").

The speakers noted that, with regard to small hydropower plants, their contribution to the energy balance of the country is invisible, and the profits due to the "green tariff" are unjustified. In this case, from the point of view of the impact on aquatic ecosystems - they are extremely harmful. The construction of new small hydropower plants is unacceptable, the green tariff for this type of energy should be abolished, and further operation of small hydroelectric plants should be undertaken in compliance with environmental requirements, in particular, to ensure the free movement and reproduction of aquatic fauna. Small hydropower plants on the Dniester tributaries led to drying of small rivers and even their disappearance. With regard to the large hydro power plants planned to be launched and built in accordance with the Hydroelectricity Development Program up to 2026, the potential damage to aquatic ecosystems is even greater. The Program itself is violating the environmental legislation, in particular regarding public participation in environmental decision-making. A round table was recently held with the participation of the members of Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine and supported by the committee of the Verkhovna Rada, responsible for environmental issues, as a result of which the participants reached a common position. The Program was considered inadequate, and there are two ways: either to completely abandon it, or to carry out a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the Program and make substantiated changes, and until then suspend its implementation.



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. Factors such as daily fluctuations in water heights, changes in temperature conditions have led to significant changes in the composition of aquatic flora and fauna along the area of about 100 km. There are technical solutions to minimize these and other impacts and remediate the situation, but they are not even discussed. 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.

Public organizations have expressed the hope that SEA of Hydropower Development Program will be conducted, and by that time its implementation will be suspended and the whole process from the beginning will be transparent and accessible for participation. The Moldovan Government carries out an Environmental Impact Assessment of hydropower activity on Dniester river, supported by the Swedish Government. 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.

Mykola Kuzio noted that small hydroelectric power stations and large hydroelectric power stations are problematic from the point of view of short-circuiting, and if small hydroelectric power stations can still provide fish, then large hydroelectric power stations are under a big question. The creation of the energy market and the implementation of the Third Energy Package will significantly influence the location of hydropower in the energy balance. Since 2021, Ukraine has to adopt and implement integrated energy and climate plans, which will also affect the development of energy sectors. It was also requested by the NGOs that all future programs similar to Hydropower Development and Energy Strategy Program, should have Strategic Environmental Assessment conducted in order to take into account the interests of the population and the environmental concerns.



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

### **GENERAL INFO ABOUT THE WORKING GROUP**

There were 4 NGOs identified which adhered to the group which work on the issues of road safety and transport. Joint activities with other WGs are carried out within the activities of the national platforms in each EaP country.

### **EVALUATION OF THE WG ACTIVITIES:**

It was again not possible to implement anything in Azerbaijan, an advocacy campaign is needed in Azerbaijan and specific grants on environment and transport are needed, energy sector would be also relevant, especially start from energy efficiency projects.

The group was successful in delivering messages on Platform and Panel meetings. It also ran a successful campaign on banning small hydropower in EaP countries, especially relevant for Moldova, Ukraine, Georgia and Armenia. Thus it is intended to have a joint declaration of WG3 at the Annual Assembly 2018 in Tbilisi.