

Annual Activities Report 2017

WORKING GROUP 4 Contacts between people

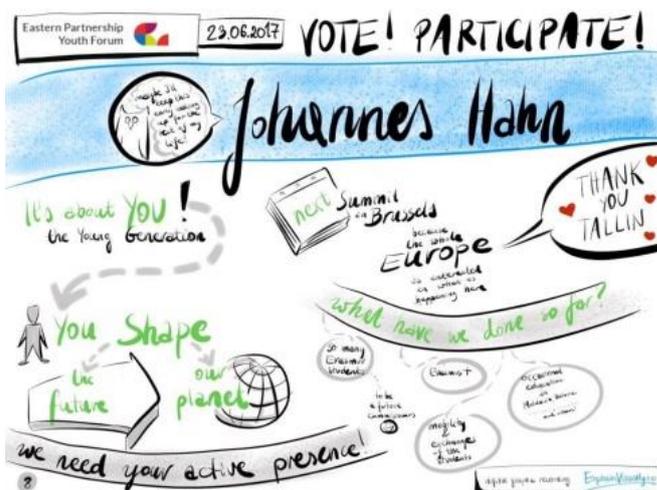
THE MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS

- Successful participation in EaP Youth Forum in Warsaw and advocacy meeting with key stakeholders from DG EAC and EACEA.
- Development of 4 proposals on behalf of WG4 under different calls for proposals, including productive negotiations regarding the conduct of the next EaP Youth Conference in 2018.
- Development of synergies and cooperation with key stakeholders working in EaP region such as SALTO EECA, AEGEE-Europe and Adam Mickiewicz Institute.

KEY TOPICS ON WHICH THE WG FOCUSED AND RESULTS ACHIEVED:

In general, WG4 activity was guided by the priority topics/issues as defined during AA in 2016. Members of WG4 and WG4 Council have attended and promoted the work of WG4 at the following key events:

- EaP Platform 4 Meeting (Brussels, December 15, 2016) attended by Hovsep Khurshudyan, former Coordinator of the EaP CSF WG4 and Alexandra Kalatozishvili, acting Coordinator of the EaP CSF WG4. At the panel, WG4 representatives have presented recommendations developed during the 2016 EaP Youth Conference and underlined the importance of making this event permanent.



- Seminar Young People for Human Rights for representatives of the Visegrad group and the EaP countries (Warsaw, 22-23 February, 2017). The event was organized by the Polish Presidency of the Visegrad Group and was attended by Hovsep Khurshudyan, former Coordinator of the EaP CSF WG4 and Grigor Yeritsyan, Armenian WG4 Coordinator, EaP CSF Youth subgroup coordinator. Main topics addressed: Human rights in the digital environment; Participation of

young people in the field of human rights, within civil society, especially youth organisations; Cross-sectorial cooperation for supporting young people actions in the field of human rights. Recommendations of the Bratislava Conference were presented at the event.

- EaP Youth Forum (Warsaw, 22-23 June, 2017) which was attended by 12 members of the WG4 within the allocated quota. At the first panel session, Alexandra Kalatozishvili, Coordinator of the EaP CSF WG4 discussed challenges of youth in the EaP region from the civil society perspective, as well as EU and

civil society contribution to a more inclusive Europe for young people. In addition, Alexandra was also engaged in round-table "Big Fish" meetings as an expert on youth, education and civil society issues. Apart to that, number of advocacy meetings with key stakeholders from DG EAC and EACEA, as well as the European Youth Forum and SALTO EECA has taken place during which opportunities for cooperation and support for WG4 activity were discussed.

- ETF Torino Process Conference “Changing Skills for a Changing World” (Turin, 7-8 June 2017). The event was attended by Mariia Symonova, Ukrainian National Platform WG4 Coordinator who actively contributed to the proceedings of the conference, including the issues related to skills development and VET policies.
- 6th Meeting of the EaP’s Panel on Statistics on Living Conditions Statistics under Platform 2 “Economic Integration and Convergence with EU Policies” (Odessa, 5-6 October, 2017). The event will be attended by Mariia Symonova, Ukrainian National Platform WG4 Coordinator.
- Erasmus+ youth event organized by Armenian Roundtable Foundation (Yerevan, 19-20 October, 2017). The topic will focus on non-formal education and volunteering in the light of youth unemployment and what the role of civil society organisations could be with all the challenges, critiques and shortcomings of the concept. The idea behind the event is to bring together young people to share best practices in this regard and to build some capacity in terms of European youth work through presentations. Also study trips in and around Yerevan are foreseen. Grigor Yeritsyan, Armenian WG4 Coordinator, EaP CSF Youth sub-group coordinator will give a presentation on the abovementioned issues with specific focus on the EaP context.
- Regional conference “Recognising qualifications and validating skills for mobility” (Tbilisi, 25-26 October, 2017). The event will be attended by Salome Sichinava, Georgian National Platform WG4 member, Secretariat of the Georgian National Platform.

WG4 ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES IN 2017

The questions below are answered based on the number of consultation meetings with various delegations attended by EaP CSF WG4 Coordinator. This mostly includes attendance on behalf of own organization, but to some extent can be also treated as the opportunity to promote interests of WG4. The WG has been consulted by EU Institutions by 5 occasions:

- 2nd meeting of the EU-Georgia Civil Society Platform (Brussels, 15 February, 2017)
- Meeting with the Delegation of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the European Parliament (Tbilisi, 23-24 May, 2017)
- Meeting with Maria Ligor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Romania, EED representative (Tbilisi, 24 May, 2017).

- Meeting with NDI high level pre-election delegation (Tbilisi, 17 July, 2017)
- Information exchange meeting with the EC Delegation on the major developments/shortcomings of the last year related to the implementation of the Association Agreement: Political dialogue and reform/Foreign and security policy/Co-operation on Justice, Freedom and Security (Tbilisi, 2 August, 2017)



For CSF Working groups, at the EU level, 12 meetings have been organized. The outcomes of these meetings were mainly mostly updates on current situation, exchange of information on major challenges and developments, etc.

At the EaP country level - 2 meetings have been made, namely: Meeting on constitutional changes with Irakli Kobakhidze, Speaker of the Parliament of Georgia (Tbilisi, 25 April, 2017) and Giorgi Margvelashvili, President of Georgia (Tbilisi, 18 May, 2017). The outcomes were recommendations suggested by the Georgian National Platform were introduced to the new version of the Constitution (e.g. the right of citizens of having an access and being able to use Internet, etc.).

GENERAL INFO ABOUT THE WG (SUB-GROUPS)

Information about essence and structure of the EaP CSF was widely spread during the EaP Youth Forum in Warsaw. As result, some participants have expressed will to get engaged in the work of the National Platform and consequently, to become a part of the CSF.

WG4 Council intends to elaborate new system for the formulation of working and re-granting priorities which will be applied during AA in 2017.

WG4 members cooperate with each other within the framework of various projects and initiatives, including re-granting projects. In addition, number of proposals were elaborated by the WG4 Council and submitted for consideration to various donors, namely:

- “Youth4Rights – Step On! – International Youth Experts` Conference” submitted to the FES Regional Office in Kiev (refused).
- “Building Capacities of Youth Workers and Youth Organization in Advocacy on Youth issues in EaP countries” submitted to Erasmus + Program, Cooperation for innovation and the exchange of good practices, Capacity Building in the field of youth – Eastern Partnership – Civil Society Fellowships for youth (refused).
- Project proposal “Development of integrated youth policies, including youth friendly employment policies and innovative educational practices in Armenia, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine” submitted to the EU4Youth Programme Grant Scheme (response pending)
- Concept of the EaP Youth Conference 2018 “Youth for Creative Entrepreneurship” (to be submitted shortly)

WG4 Coordinator, Council and group members are actively involved in the activity of their respective National Platforms. In 2016-2017 WG4 Coordinator has undertaken particular efforts to promote NP and the Forum in Georgia, including the regions compactly settled by ethnic minorities. Significant efforts were done to attract regional CSOs to the Platform.

In addition, a study visit to the EaP CSF Secretariat was organized for the AEGEE-Europe representatives in order to introduce them to the CSF, its mission, vision, milestones success, working schemes and procedures and generally CSF's vision on the future of the EaP.

POSITIVE MENTIONS OF THE NP AND THE FORUM AND ITS ACTIVITIES IN THE MEDIA:



Participation of WG4 Council members was promoted via various channels, including national and regional media sources as well as in social media.

As a result of the joint events between the WG meetings and the National platform, the concept of the EaP Youth Conference 2018, focused on the issue of creative entrepreneurship has been developed.