

MOLDOVA'S NATIONAL PLATFORM OF EASTERN PARTNERSHIP CIVIL SOCIETY FORUM



Highlights

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NP members with
H. E. Peter Michalko,
Head of EU Delegation
to Moldova

NEWSLETTER

WHAT DOESN'T KILL YOU MAKES YOU MOLDOVAN

The year of changes

For Moldovans the year of 2019 is the year of changes: 3 different Governments, 2 Parliaments, a very flexible Constitutional law interpretation, a capital without a mayor for most of the year, a perpetual dysfunctional judiciary, a couple of oligarchs in international pursuit because they performed a disappearance act on an entire legal system.

Nevertheless, 2019 is also the year of hope, of being heard, of building bridges, and the year of learning to work together in challenging realities and support each other. Hence, civil society must go on with the show and do its job whether in a friendly or less friendly environment. In eleven months, 2019 has brought a lot of changes and it's not over yet. Who knows what Christmas will bring!

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NEW GOVERNMENT, MORE WORK FOR THE CIVIL SOCIETY

In less than 2 months until the end of the year, Moldovan MPs approved a new minority government made of President Igor Dodon advisors. The prime minister Ion Chicu said his "Government is a transitional government until the next presidential elections in the autumn of 2020" when early parliamentary elections are planned to be held. The political changes restored uncertainty among civil society since the Government's action program

left out some very important issues such as improving the situation of the media and the environmental protection. Already the media and environmental organizations have urged the new Government to introduce specific objectives for these fields in its action plan. Also, civil society is not impressed with the plans for the judiciary and Prosecutor General Office. It remains to be seen how the new government will cooperate with the civil society.

WATCHFUL AND HOPEFUL

Although Moldova has a new Government, the 20 deliverables for 2020 approved at the Eastern Partnership Summit from Brussels from 2017 remain the same. The nongovernmental organizations evaluated the results on the main priorities and discussed the gained results and remaining challenges with the central authorities. 5 thematic workshops were organized in partnership with the project Technical Assistance to Support the Development of Civil Society Organizations in Moldova to examine the deliverables and review the conclusion of civil society. An overview of the 2020 deliverables evaluation will be presented at the Brussels General Assembly.



The main recommendations for the general EaP framework are:

- EaP deliverables should be different for countries that have an Association Agreement with the EU.
- EaP activities must be more ambitious than the provisions of the Association Agreement with the EU
- EaP deliverables should help implement the legislation modified according to the Association Agreement.
- The civil society should be present at all EaP framework meetings to present the opinion of the society and not only that of the Government.



UNITED IN DIVERSITY, MOLDOVAN STYLE

After several years of poor collaboration between the Government and the civil society and the influence of political parties that divided the Moldovan society on ethnic principles, the time for a new reality has come in line with the European values. The National Platform offered such an example by targeting an environmental issue which was usually overlooked by the authorities. In collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment, the Agency for Interethnic Relations and with the participation of civil servants and representatives of all major national minorities in Moldova, the NP helped restore the protective strip of one of the main rivers in Moldova – Raut, by planting 4000 trees on its banks. Thus, the civil society and central authorities came together to unite people from different regions and of different backgrounds to fight a critical environmental problem that can leave Moldova without water in just 15 years.



EASTERN PARTNERSHIP, THE WAY WE SEE IT

Vitaliy KOVALEV

Chairman of the Moldovan Union of Organizations of people with limited abilities, member of the NP

As a member of the NP our organization gained extensive experience in implementing international projects; established new regional partnerships and contributed to several Annual Assembly resolution texts regarding the protection of the rights of people with disabilities. With the support of the EaP CSF and in the framework of the re-granting program, we took part in 2 tripartite (Armenia, Georgia, and Moldova) international projects "From inclusion to participation in decision-making" and "Inclusion in Action" aiming at promoting and protecting the rights of people with disabilities. Thanks to these projects, it was possible to monitor the current situation of people with disabilities regarding the access to the decision-making processes at all levels, to develop a mechanism for involving them in these processes, thereby contributing to the enforcement of their rights.

Gabriela OJOG

Executive Director Foundation for Advancement of Moldova, member of the NP

The Eastern Partnership united the SCOs from our countries in National Platforms and built bridges between the platforms of the 6 EaP countries. Any collaboration brings benefits because you gain experience, new knowledge, additional information and potential for development. My team and I personally learned a lot from these partnerships. We have better communication at the local and regional level and together we can move things faster for the benefit of our countries.

Petru BOTNARU

Executive Director "Terra-1530" NGO, member of the NP

Terra-1530 is made of 18 other NGOs and due to the Eastern Partnership and its framework

we identified organizations with similar objectives and expanded the number of our partners at regional level, for example, our Armenian colleagues from "Biosophia" NGO. The collaboration allowed the Moldovan Network of Rural Volunteering Centers for Water to expand internationally. Also, we have a representative in the Young European Ambassadors Program Nadina Danaila who promotes the goals of our Regional Youth Council.

Ina COSERU

Chairwoman of the National Environmental Center, member of the NP

The EaP National Platform is a great possibility for any NGO and any social activist because it opens many doors. It is a platform where the civil society can express their concerns regarding the situation in the country and those messages will be heard and eventually as a boomerang they will bring changes in the country. Together as the NP we have a voice and the development partners of Moldova, the EU, listen to what we have to say which is extremely important for the democratic development of the country.

Adrian Nacu

Member of the European Student's Association AEGEE-Chisinau, member of the NP

Our organization is part of the European AEGEE family and the chance to collaborate with partner organizations from Europe is very important to us, as well as with organizations from the Eastern Partnership countries such as Georgia, Armenia, and Ukraine. In the last years, we felt an increase in the EU support offered to the civil sector of Moldova through programs for young people. For example, AEGEE Chisinau and I personally benefited from Erasmus + projects as organizers and as partners. At the same time, I am Young European Ambassador and have the possibility to share with and learn from young people all over Europe.

The project benefits from support through the EaP Civil Society Forum Re-granting Scheme (FSTP) and is funded by the European Union as part of its support to civil society in the region. Within its Re-granting Scheme, the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum (EaP CSF) supports projects of its members that contribute to achieving the mission and objectives of the Forum. Grants are available for CSOs from the Eastern Partnership and EU countries. Key areas of support are democracy and human rights, economic integration, environment and energy, contacts between people, social and labour policies.