

# NEWSLETTER

NO.2

## SUCCESS STORY: THE NATIONAL PLATFORM, FIGHTING FOR DEMOCRACY WHILE STAYING AT HOME



For Moldovans, the current outbreak of the COVID-19 epidemic is a stress test, which revealed many political, economic and societal vulnerabilities that we knew were already there. At the same time, even during the darkest times, the National Platform is not accepting illegalities and is fighting more than ever for justice and honesty.

The 26th of March 2020 was an important day for the National Platform, as well as for media NGOs from the country, as the president of the Audiovisual Council (AC), Dragos Vicol has canceled the Disposition that stated that journalists have to give up opinions, and the only truthful information is those published by the authorities.

This Disposition was canceled due to the efforts of the National Platform and media NGOs, who came up with a **Public Call** the same day, criticizing the issued disposition. In the Public Call, the signers expressed their concern regarding the illegal character of the disposition issued by the AC president and described it as abuse and censorship from the regulatory authority in the field of audiovisual media services in the Republic of Moldova.

This means that the voice of the civil society is being heard and, more importantly, is being listened to, as the National Platform and media NGOs believe that now it's more important than ever to ensure the free flow of information, as many governments around the world are using the pandemic to claim excessive powers that could undermine democratic institutions, including free press.

#stayhome...  
Go Far

*The lesson to be  
learnt is this:  
**Together, we  
can do so much!***

**#PrepareEaP4Health**  
Civil Society's COVID-19  
response. Follow the hashtag  
for regular updates on  
everything you  
need to know about  
COVID-19 in the EaP.



EU-Moldova CSP members and EU stakeholders with H.E. Peter Michalko, Head of EU Delegation of Moldova

## 6TH EU-MOLDOVA CIVIL SOCIETY PLATFORM MEETING



**The 6th meeting of the EU-Moldova Civil Society Platform gathered civil society representatives and EU stakeholders to discuss the latest implementation steps of the EU-Moldova Association Agreement.**



During the meeting, a debate was held assessing the state of play of the implementation of the EU-Moldova Association Agreement. Platform members also took stock of the Association Agenda EU-Moldova 2017-2019.

Forum representative, Pavel Havlíček voiced that the socio-economic situation in Moldova remains deficient for many people. Among other indicators, the average salary in Moldova is twice times less than the minimum wage in Romania.

The meeting closed with discussions on the situation of Moldovan initiatives in the justice sector and fighting corruption, and a presentation on the state of implementation of the Association Agreement in political and economic areas between 2017 and 2019.

At the end of the meeting, the parties adopted a joint declaration, which can be read **here**.



# THE NATIONAL PLATFORM'S MEMBERS' CORNER

## **Watching the Government & Spreading Hope**

Whether it's closely monitoring the Government and its response to the COVID-19 outbreak, allocating funds to support the primary needs of doctors, social workers, and police officers or fighting for justice for the business environment, one thing is clear: National Platform's members are acting fast and smart in response to rapidly shifting realities.

## **Institute for European Policies and Reforms (IPRE) & Legal Resources Centre from Moldova (LRCM)**

The Institute for European Policies and Reform and the Legal Resources Centre from Moldova have developed the Opinion on the proportionality and the legality of the measures taken by the Government during the state of emergency.

The experts analyse how the mechanisms of management of the state of emergency established by the Parliament Decision no. 55/2020 of 17.03.2020 regarding the declaration of the state of emergency and subsequently applied through the provisions of the Decisions of the Commission for Exceptional Situations of the Republic of Moldova (within the period 17-27.03.2020). The opinion will refer to the legal aspects established through the acts mentioned above, including the amendments made to Law no. 212/2004 on the state of emergency, siege and war regime through Law no. 54/2020. The detailed opinion can be accessed [here](#).

## **Promo-LEX Association**

Promo-LEX has launched a Public Call regarding the need to increase the level of protection of medical workers in the context of the state of emergency and the COVID-19 pandemic in the Republic of Moldova. In the Public Call, Promo-LEX expresses its deep concern regarding the growing number of medical staff being diagnosed with COVID-19, the working conditions of medical personnel and the urgent need of protective equipment, as well as the lack of daily updated information on the number of medical workers being tested for COVID-19 and being put under medical supervision.

Promo-LEX urges the authorities to test the medical staff, as well as to establish a periodic testing mechanism for them, to isolate the medical personnel who have symptoms of COVID-19 disease, to provide the necessary equipment, appropriate to the epidemiological situation, for all the hospitals in the country, to ensure regular information on the number of medical staff infected with COVID-19, and the number of medical staff being tested as a preventative measure.

## **Soros-Moldova Foundation**

Soros-Moldova Foundation has announced that it is allocating the first tranche of 100 thousand dollars to support the fight with the new COVID-19 pandemic. The money will be directed primarily to doctors, social workers, police officers and all those in difficulty during this period. The Foundation will also provide protective equipment: masks, gloves and sanitizing solutions to those who are exposed to an increased risk of infection, but do not have them.

## **Alliance of Small Enterprises from Moldova**

Alliance of Small Enterprises from Moldova (member of the National Platform), together with other 3 business association from Moldova ( the Association of Women Entrepreneurs from Moldova, Creative Industries Association in Moldova and the National Association of Restaurants and Leisure Centres), on behalf of its members but also all SMEs from Moldova, has elaborated a letter destined to the authorities, calling for urgent measures to be taken to support the business environment in the context of the global pandemic of COVID-19.

Alliance of Small Enterprises from Moldova's executive director, Liliana Busuioc, attended a meeting with the Prime Minister of Moldova, Mr. Ion Chicu, to discuss supporting measures for the economic agents during the COVID-19 outbreak. The executive director mentioned the risk of bankruptcy of micro-enterprises, which lack financial resources for emergency situations and asked the Prime Minister to consider a sectoral approach to the support measures for the businesses which are the most affected by the state of emergency.



# MOTIVATED & OPTIMISTIC:

## DELEGATES SELECTED FOR THE 2020-2021 CYCLE, DETERMINED TO MAKE A CHANGE

**Ana INDOITU**

*President "INVENTO", member of the NP, WG4*

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The member statute in the most vocal and consolidated national network of the civil society in the Republic of Moldova is treated with honor but also with responsibility. Moreover, given the fact that the National Platform of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum is a satellite of the Civil Society Forum in the 6 Eastern Partnership countries, INVENTO will have the opportunity to participate in dialogue with the European authorities regarding the Republic of Moldova's development and adherence to the EU. Thus, we consistently and actively commit ourselves to ensure the development of the rule of law, social justice, and development opportunities for youth.

**Lilia CARASCIUC**

*Executive Director, Transparency-International  
Moldova, member of the NP, WG1*

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In fact, this is not my first experience as an official delegate to the EaP CSF. In 10 years of EaP, I volunteered as the National Facilitator of the Moldovan Platform, the Coordinator of National Working Group 1, a member of the Steering Committee of the EaP CSF and an ordinary member of NP.

Participation in the activities of this Forum gave me possibility to address such issues as state capture, money laundering, USD 1 Billion fraud from the Moldovan banking system, developments in the field of anti-corruption, justice sector, political integrity and rule of law in my country to the highest level of EU governing bodies and relevant commissions in the most difficult time for the civil society. I spoke about the threat of international money laundering schemes for the regional security, about the need of more cooperation between EU and EaP countries in the verification of legitimacy of provenience of the assets of high ranking decision-makers, particularly their property abroad; I spoke about the need to put in place a unique legal framework that regulates the circulation of crypto-currency to address the threat for the financial security of EU and EaP; I required the EU countries to proceed to the elaboration and adoption of a Magnitskii Act type of document; I required more transparency over the beneficiaries of Golden Visa programs and a careful look on who are the applicants.

There are many other things to address and I would be more than happy to state considerable progress in these matters in EaP countries, but now these are our challenges and, to obtain this progress, we need to face the challenges with an open mind and clean hands.

### The Delegates from the Moldovan Civil Society Organizations for 2020-2021

#### ■ Working Group 1

- Association «Institutum Virtutes Civilis»
- Institute for European Policies and Reforms (IPRE)
- Independent think tank Expert-Grup
- The Platform for Gender Equality
- Transparency International - Moldova
- Association of Independent Press
- Legal Resources Centre from Moldova (LRCM)

#### ■ Working Group 2

- National LEADER Network
- Institute for Development and Social Initiatives „Viitorul”
- Pro Regional Cooperation

#### ■ Working Group 3

- Ormax Cultural Youth Association
- Ecological Movement of Moldova
- National Environmental Center
- CAROMA NORD MOLDOVA
- EcoContact

#### ■ Working Group 4

- INVENTO
- Institute for Public Policy
- «Millenium» Training and Development Institute
- National Youth Council of Moldova

#### ■ WG5

- NGO “CASMED».

*The Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum (EaP CSF) is a unique multi-layered regional civil society platform aimed at promoting European integration, facilitating reforms and democratic transformations in the six Eastern Partnership countries - Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine. Serving as the civil society and people-to-people dimension of the Eastern Partnership, the EaP CSF strives to strengthen civil society in the region, boost pluralism in public discourse and policy making by promoting participatory democracy and fundamental freedoms. The EaP CSF is a non-partisan bona fide non-governmental organisation. For more information, please visit the EaP CSF website at [www.eap-csf.eu](http://www.eap-csf.eu)*