

# NEWSLETTER

No. 3



## Implementation in the sixth year

## Shadow Report on the main progress, constraints and priorities in the implementation of the Association Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Moldova

During the sixth year of implementation of the Association Agreement (1 September 2019 – 1 September 2020), while summarising the results and constraints identified in the current Shadow Report, there is progress in those areas and sectors of the EU-Moldova Association Agreement, which have been conditioned by the budget support and macro-financial assistance programmes offered by the EU. The EU remains the most important economic partner of the Republic of Moldova, with over 63% of Moldovan exports oriented to the European market and almost 50% of imports that are of EU origin. No tangible progress was attained in the implementation of the values part of the Association Agreement.

These are the main findings of the Shadow Report: Six year of implementation of the EU-Moldova Association Agreement, presented today by the experts of the Institute for European Policies and Reforms (IPRE), in partnership with the National Platform of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum and with the support of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation in the Republic of Moldova.

IPRE experts have found that EU has diversified the support framework for various actors of change, strengthening dialogue and cooperation with civil society, local authorities, SMEs and local communities. The EU's image among citizens continued to improve. Thus, over 63% of Moldovans say they trust the European Union, according to a recent survey conducted in the Republic of Moldova and other Eastern Partnership countries.

The EU-Moldova political dialogue was influenced by internal political developments, the level of achievement of the key reforms' agenda, related to the functioning of democratic institutions, justice and respect for human rights, but also by the COVID-19 pandemic crisis. The negotiation of a new Association Agenda, development of a new Action Plan to implement the Association Agreement and inputs to finalise the new deliverables of the Eastern Partnership post-2020 are the key priorities of the political dialogue, which could also provide opportunities to reset Moldova's European agenda.

# The second 2020 General Meeting of the National Platform of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum

The members of the National Platform have met online, on the 18th of September, for the second General Meeting of 2020, to welcome new member-organisations in the Platform, assure the equal implication of all members in the activities of the Platform, and to plan the thematic events and activities for the next period of the year.

Moreover, the members have discussed the advocacy strategy of the Platform for 2020-2021 and established the Platform's priorities, in accordance with the EU-Republic of Moldova Association Agenda.



Some of the National Platform's members during the online General Meeting of the Platform, 18 September 2020

## The National Platform's priorities for 2020-2022

In July 2020, the National Platform has re-elected the National Facilitator for 2020-2022. Thus, Adrian Lupușor, executive director of Expert-Grup, was designated the National Facilitator of the National Platform.

As the National Facilitator, Adrian Lupușor aims to establish a framework of priorities that will consistently anchor the work of the Platform, boost the activity and involvement of the Platform's members, and increase the visibility of the Platform both internally and externally in order to enlarge the efficiency of the advocacy action in Chișinău and Brussels.

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*“The achievement of these 3 basic objectives will facilitate the accomplishment of the Platform's mission „to strengthen the process of European integration and democratic development of the Republic of Moldova, to contribute to the advocacy and monitoring process in the implementation of the Association Agreement, as well as other relevant documents referring to the Eastern Partnership and the relationship between EU and Republic of Moldova.”*

**ADRIAN LUPUȘOR** National Facilitator of the National Platform

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Meantime, the Activity Report of Ion Manole, executive director of Promo-LEX, the Platform's National Facilitator for the period of June 2019- July 2020, can be seen [here](#).



The members of the Moldovan National Platform in front of the Embassy of the Republic of Belarus to Chisinau, 9 September 2020



## Acts of solidarity with the population of Belarus

organised by the National Platforms of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum

During the month of August 2020, the 6 National Platforms of the Eastern Partnership countries have shown their solidarity with the population of Belarus regarding the presidential elections that took place on the 9th of August and the current political situation in Belarus.

A series of parallel acts of solidarity were organised by the National Platforms in the region, on 13 August and 9-10 September, showing support to the peaceful protesters of Belarus and to the colleagues from the National Platform of Belarus - Andrei Yahorau, Irina Sukhy, and Stanislava Husakova, who were illegally detained by the law enforcement agents during a peaceful protest.

**On the 8th of September**, the Steering Committee of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum released a **Statement**, strongly condemning the unjustified and illegal detention of the members of the National Platform of Belarus and demanding the authorities to immediately release all political prisoners and end the violence and repression by law enforcement agencies on peaceful protesters.

**On the 13th of October**, a **Joint Statement** of the National Platform of Belarus and Steering Committee of the EaP CSF was released, condemning the illegal arrests of more than 600 peaceful protesters and civil society activists between 9-11 August, and members of the Coordination Council initiated by Sviatlana Tikhonovskaya.

## The first EU Information Center, Europe Café, was inaugurated in Chisinau

Europe Café, the first Information Center of the European Union in Chisinau, was inaugurated in a virtual and interactive format for the citizens of the Republic of Moldova. The ceremony was opened by the EU Ambassador to the Republic of Moldova, Peter Michalko, with the online participation of EU member countries Ambassadors. Along with them, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration, Oleg Țulea, addressed a word of congratulations.

Located in the city center, Europe Café aims to become a connecting place for communication and visibility of the European Union in Chisinau, offering the public various information about the EU and the cooperation with the Republic of Moldova.

Europe Café was conceived as a communication and information center, where all those interested will be able to learn more about the European Union and the Member States, about their history and culture, as well as about the assistance provided for the benefit of the citizens of the Republic of Moldova, and projects of the European Union and EU member states, which together act as the „Team Europe“.



His Excellency, Peter Michalko, EU Ambassador to the Republic of Moldova, at the inauguration of Europe Café



## Work-shop: Developing the Advocacy, Strategic Communication, and Analysis Tools of the civil society organisation in the Republic of Moldova

The Institute for European Policies and Reforms (IPRE), in partnership with the National Platform of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum and with the support of the Soros Foundation-Moldova, organized, between 12-13 August 2020, the workshop „Development of analysis tools, strategic communication and advocacy of civil society organizations in the Republic of Moldova“.

The workshop was attended by over 20 participants, representing civil society organisations (CSOs) and think tanks from the Republic of Moldova, interested in developing their skills of analysis, advocacy and communication, for better coordination and promotion of the activities of their organisations.

Participants had the opportunity to become familiar with the methods of analysis, communication and advocacy needed to increase interaction with media institutions, public authorities and development partners. At the same time, the participants discussed, together with the moderators of the working sessions, about the evaluation and analysis of political events, processes and effects, both in the Republic of Moldova and internationally.

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*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)*