

## PRESS RELEASE

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The main objectives of the 2020-2021 Advocacy Plan of the Moldovan National Platform of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum include strengthening the involvement of the civil society in the decision-making both at national and EU level and supporting participative formats of policy development and sharing the results of civil society monitoring of implementation of reforms in the country.

The Advocacy Plan of the Moldovan National Platform of the EaP CSF was presented today, December 2, 2020, during the online forum "Moldovan National Platform of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum: Moving Initiatives Forward", which brought together representatives of National Platform, representatives the development partners of the Republic of Moldova, as well as representatives of the diplomatic missions of EU Member States and of the US embassy to the Republic of Moldova.

His Excellency, Peter Michalko, EU Ambassador to the Republic of Moldova came with a word of greeting and encouragement to the members of the National Platform and the representatives of the civil society, thanking them for everything they do in terms of support and assistance and monitoring activities of policies, in order to make the Republic of Moldova a better place for its citizens.

"On behalf of the European Union, we will continue to support the civil society of the Republic of Moldova.", said His Excellency.

At the same time, H.E. Peter Michalko, mentioned that one of his objectives as the EU Ambassador to the Republic of Moldova is to support a favorable environment for the civil society:

"We have been closely following the developments regarding the law on non-commercial organizations, and the focus must now be on a better implementation of this law compared to the implementation of the Civil Society Development Strategy of 2018-2020," said the Ambassador.

Moreover, the EU Ambassador to Chisinau also mentioned the recent attacks on civil society in the Republic of Moldova, condemning them:

"As you know, I have reacted publicly to the recent attacks on NGOs, which are also indirect attacks on the European Union's policy of including and supporting NGOs and the independent media as an essential element of a healthy democratic society. They are attacks on the progress of civil society in the Republic of Moldova. We expect from the authorities an open

attitude towards civil society, because this will directly help the sustainable development of the society in the Republic of Moldova.” said His Excellency.

“The year 2020 was, in particular, a difficult year. The European Union and the EU Member States, within Team Europe, have mobilized all the means at their disposal to support the consolidation of the public health sector and to mitigate the socio-economic impact caused by the COVID-19 pandemic in the Republic of Moldova. We thank the members of civil society who help in this effort and are involved in activities related to stopping this crisis caused by COVID-19, by supporting citizens in need of assistance.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, we continued our support and assistance to civil society actors, the independent media and independent journalists. To counter the social and economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic in the Eastern Partnership countries, the European Commission has launched a call for proposals aimed at supporting local civil society in the EaP countries. The civil society of the Republic of Moldova will benefit, in this context, from approximately 2.5 million lei”, also communicated His Excellency.

“The opinion of civil society is very important for us and for the Eastern Partnership. I would like to inform you that we aim for the involvement of civil society in the Moldova-EU Association Agenda to be substantial and to include, in addition to a new policy document to support civil society and the media, mechanisms to ensure financial sustainability. We will also insist on public information campaigns in the Republic of Moldova on the role of civil society as well as on the prompt reaction of the authorities on the systematic campaigns to undermine civil society.”

H.E. Peter Michalko stated that, together with the EU Delegation to the Republic of Moldova, they are ready to support the National Platform in implementing the activities of the Advocacy Plan.

Adrian Lușor, the National Facilitator of the National Platform of the EaP CSF, mentioned that the National Platform remains a firm partner for the EU, not only to expect support from the EU, but also to provide expertise, knowledge and exchange of ideas regarding of the EU’s activity in the Republic of Moldova.

“The Advocacy Plan of the National Platform is the first action towards communicating the priorities that must be found both on the agenda of civil society, and we recommend that it be found on the EU agenda as well,” stated Adrian Lușor during the forum.

“The National Platform is the most representative platform of civil society in the Republic of Moldova, and I think that the good relationship and good dialogue we have with the EU and other development partners is very welcome. We aim to further capitalize on this interaction with donors and development partners of the Republic of Moldova. The advocacy plan is meant to inform not only the general public, but also the development partners about the priorities of the

Platform and for establishing the opportunities and ideas for partnerships.”, mentioned Adrian Lupușor.

The Coordinators of the five Working Groups of the National Platform presented the priorities for each Working Group for the period 2020-2021.

#### Working Group No.1: Democracy, human rights, good governance, and stability

- Increase public awareness about the advantages of EU integration;
- Increase accountability among Moldovan authorities in terms of real reform with regards to good governance and human rights, judiciary reform, anticorruption effort and bank fraud investigation;
- Withstand initiatives from authorities that undermine the basic principles of rule of law and contravene the EU integration process.

#### Working Group No.2: Economic integration and conversion with EU policies

- Monitoring the implementation of DCFTA;
- Cooperation with relevant state institutions to implement the AA;
- Transparency in offering state assistance for SMEs;
- Subsidies for agricultural producers: priority fields subsidized, categories of producers and structures eligible for subsidies, etc.

#### Working Group No.3: Environment, Climate Change, and Energy Security

- Increasing the public awareness about the environment protection and adaptation to climate in the Republic of Moldova;
- Increase involvement of the Moldovan authorities in order to facilitate investments in energy sector and transport at local level;
- Withstanding the environmental initiatives / actions that compromise Moldova's rapprochement with the EU and impede the qualitative implementation of its commitments.

#### Working Group No.4: Contacts between People

- Improving education during the COVID-19 pandemic;
- Youth and Social Entrepreneurship;
- Social services and volunteering in times of the pandemic.

Working Group No.5: Social and Labour Policies & Social Dialogue

- Monitoring social and employment policies in the Republic of Moldova;
- Protection, resilience and job creation as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

As the first exercise of this Advocacy Plan, Transparency International - Moldova came up with a series of recommendations for improving the quality of public policies in the field of corruption prevention, namely: policies - part of UNCAC (UN Convention against Corruption), implementation of GRECO (Group of States Against Corruption) recommendations, the implementation of the National Integrity and Anticorruption Strategy, as well as recommendations to boost activity of the anti-corruption bodies during the COVID 19 pandemic. TI-Moldova also shared its experience of monitoring legal initiatives that may affect the public interest.

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The [Moldovan National Platform](#) of the Eastern Partnership Civic Society Forum was created in 2011 and currently has 95 member organisations, 8 of these organisations being umbrella-organisations for other other a thousand organizations. Its mission is to contribute to the European integration process and advocate for democracy in the Republic of Moldova. The National Platform actively contributes to the advocacy process and monitors the implementation of the Association Agreement between the EU and the Republic of Moldova and other relevant documents that refer to the Eastern Partnership and the relationship between the EU and the Republic of Moldova.