



3rd Association Exchange Forum

13-15 November 2019
Kyiv, Radisson Blu Podil (Bratska Str., 17-19)

The 3rd Association Exchange Forum will unite, for the third time, high level officials, practitioners and experts on Association Agreement implementation in Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine coming from the three Associated countries, as well as the European Union.

The Forum is a series of annual events providing a platform and encouraging cross-country and multi-stakeholder networking to:

- **Overview achievements, share experience, good practices and lessons learned** in the Association Agreements implementation in Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine, in particular in the institutional set-up, implementation monitoring and civil society/stakeholder involvement;
- **Elaborate ideas on how to improve the AA implementation performance** and make the most out of this process, inter alia, through peer-to-peer learning and cooperation between the Associated countries, finding joint solutions to common problems and defining shared expectations regarding the EU's involvement and support;
- **Discuss common interests of the three countries in advancing their European integration** by exploring the opportunities, options and prerequisites of de facto integration, using the potential of the Association Agreements' provisions on political association and economic integration, taking into account a broader context of the EU reform and future of Europe debate.

The 3rd Forum will take place in the **period of change**, after the elections have reshaped political landscapes in Ukraine, Moldova and the European Union. It will allow to learn whether there will be further political leadership on all sides to advance implementation of the Association Agreements and deepen European integration of the three countries in the areas of their priority interests.

The Forum will also provide an opportunity to explore the **potential of enhanced cooperation within the group of the associated countries** around their EU integration goals, in particular, by discussing the specific common interests that Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine have in pushing together for deeper integration into European internal markets, as well as in building stronger ties between themselves. Participants will also explore the idea of a special track of relationship with the EU the three countries seek, and of the framework the EU can offer for the relationship of deeper integration without membership of the three countries.

Organisers: The Forum is organized by the Civic Synergy Project, funded by the EU and implemented by the International Renaissance Foundation, in partnership with the Ukrainian Side of the EU-Ukraine Civil Society Platform and the Ukrainian National Platform of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum and with support of the Office of the Vice Prime Minister for European and Euro-Atlantic Integration of Ukraine and the Governmental Office for European and Euro-Atlantic Integration of Ukraine.

Forum provisional agenda

Day 1. 13 November 2019

Morning - arrival of participants

15:00 - 16:00 Registration of participants, welcome coffee

16:00 – 16:30 **OPENING OF THE FORUM**

Welcome words:

- Dmytro KULEBA, Vice Prime Minister of Ukraine for European and Euro-Atlantic Integration
- Luc DEVIGNE, Director for Russia, Eastern partnership, Central Asia and OSCE, Deputy Managing Director for Europe and Central Asia, European External Action Service
- Oleksandr SUSHKO, Executive Director of the International Renaissance Foundation

Moderator: Dmytro SHULGA, Director, European Program, International Renaissance Foundation

16:30 – 18:30 **Session I: UKRAINE, MOLDOVA, GEORGIA ON THE WAY TO THE EU: A NEW VISEGRAD?**

Speakers:

- Vakhtang MAKHAROBILISHVILI, First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Georgia
- Olena ZERKAL, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine
- Vlad KULMINSKY, State Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of Moldova

Comments from civil society representatives:

- Kakha GOGOLASHVILI, Co-Chair of the EU-Georgia Civil Society Platform, Director of EU Studies Centre, Georgian Foundation for Strategic and International Studies
- Yuri VDOVENKO, Country Facilitator, Ukrainian National Platform, EaP Civil Society Forum, Director of the Centre for Cross Border Cooperation
- Ion MANOLE, Country Facilitator, Moldovan National Platform of the EaP Civil Society Forum

Comments from the EU Delegation to Ukraine:

- Matti MAASIKAS, Ambassador of the European Union to Ukraine

Moderator: Zoriana MISHCHUK, Civic Synergy Project Team Leader

Discussion

Day 2. 14 November 2019

9:30 – 11:30 **Session II: THE THREE ASSOCIATED COUNTRIES IN A WIDER EUROPE: A DE FACTO INTEGRATION PERSPECTIVE?**

Speakers:

- Michael EMERSON, Associate Senior Research Fellow, Centre for European Policy Studies, Brussels
- Daniel SZELIGOWSKI, Head of the Eastern Europe Programme at the Polish Institute of International Affairs
- Taras KACHKA, Deputy Economic Development and Trade Minister of Ukraine/Trade Representative of Ukraine
- Marius VAHL, Head of EEA Policy Coordination, European Free Trade Association Secretariat
- Luc DEVIGNE, Director for Russia, Eastern partnership, Central Asia and OSCE, Deputy Managing Director for Europe and Central Asia, European External Action Service

Moderator: Olga STEFANISHYNA, Independent Expert, Advisor to the Vice Prime Minister for European and Euro-Atlantic integration

11:30 – 12:00 Coffee break

12:00 – 13:30 **Session III: WHERE ARE WE NOW? ACTUAL PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTING THE THREE ASSOCIATION AGREEMENTS**

Speakers:

- Yulia GARYACHA, Acting Director of the Government Office for Coordination of the European and Euro-Atlantic Integration of Ukraine
- David BUJIASHVILI, Head of the EU Assistance Coordination and Sectorial Integration Department, Directorate General for European Integration, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- A representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of Moldova (tbd)

Comments from civil society platforms representatives:

- Liuba AKULENKO, Executive Director, Ukrainian Centre of European Policy
- Iulian GROZA, Executive Director of the Institute for European Policies and Reforms, Member of the EU-Moldova Civil Society Platform,
- Kakha GOGOLASHVILI, Co-Chair of the EU-Georgia Civil Society Platform, Director of EU Studies Centre, Georgian Foundation for Strategic and International Studies

Moderator: Kataryna WOLCZUK, Professor of East European Politics, Centre for Russian,

13:30 – 14:30 Lunch

14:30 – 16:00 **Parallel Session IVa: DCFTAS IN ACTION: ECONOMIC EFFECTS AND FURTHER GOALS**

Speakers:

- Jana HERCEG, Head of Trade Section, EU Delegation to Ukraine
- Veronika MOVCHAN, Academic Director, Institute for Economic Research and Political Consultations (Ukraine)
- Lali GOGOBERIDZE, Expert, Reformatics (Georgia)
- Denis CENUȘĂ, Associated Expert, Expert-Grup (Moldova)
- Alexandra POPA, Manager of Policy and Advocacy, European Business Association Moldova

Moderator: Anne BERCIO, Head of the ImpAct Project (Implementation of DCFTA supporting activities in Ukraine, Moldova and Georgia), GIZ

Parallel Session IVb: JUDICIAL REFORM IN FOCUS: COMPARING PROGRESS IN UKRAINE, GEORGIA AND MOLDOVA

Speakers:

- Mykhailo ZHERNAKOV, Chairman of the Board, DEJURE Foundation (Ukraine)
- Arkadiy BUSHCHENKO, Judge of the Supreme Court (Ukraine)
- Ilie CHIRTOACA, Legal Officer, Legal Resources Centre (Moldova)
- Giorgi CHITIDZE, Manager, Human Rights Program, Open Society Georgia Foundation (Georgia)

Moderator: Nataliya PETROVA, Deputy Director, USAID Justice Sector reform, Program “New Justice” (Ukraine)

16:00 – 16:30 Coffee break

16:30 – 18:30 **Parallel Session Va: DIGITAL MARKETS HARMONISATION: BILATERAL PRIORITIES AND COMMON GOALS**

Speakers:

- Valeria IONAN, Deputy Minister for EU integration, Ministry of Digital Transformation of Ukraine
- Oleksander ZHYVOTOVSKYI, Chairman of the National Commission for the State Regulation of Communications and Informatization
- David TSISKARIDZE, Chairman of the International Business and Economic Development Center (Georgia)

Moderator: Yulia GARYACHA, Acting Director of the Government Office for Coordination of the European and Euro-Atlantic Integration

Parallel Session Vb: ENERGY SECURITY AND INTEGRATION INTO EU ENERGY MARKETS

Speakers:

- Torsten WOELLERT, Team Leader Energy and Environment, Support Group for Ukraine
- Aliona OSMOLOVSKA, Corporate Communications Director, NAFTOGAZ (Ukraine)
- Denis CENUȘĂ, Associated Expert, Expert-Grup (Moldova)
- Murman MARGVELASHVILI, Founder and Board Member, “World Experience for Georgia” (Georgia)
- Julian RÖPCKE, Political Editor, Bild (Germany)

Moderator: Olena PAVLENKO, President, DIXI Group

18:30 **Buffet Dinner**

Day 3. 15 November 2019

09:00 – 10:00 **Session VII: REGIONAL SECURITY AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION STRATEGIES: A SPACE FOR TRILATERAL COOPERATION?**

Moderator: Vitalii Martyniuk, Acting Executive Director, Centre for Global Studies “Strategy XXI”, Ukraine

Speakers:

- Oleksandr LYTVYENKO, Director of the National Institute of Strategic Studies, Ukraine
- Paata GAPRINDASHVILI, Director, Georgia’s Reform Association (GRASS)
- Victoria ROȘA, Defense and Security Advisor to Prime Minister of Moldova

10:00 – 11:00 **Session VI: EASTERN PARTNERSHIP BEYOND 2020: VIEWS FROM BERLIN**

Moderator: Oleksandr HOLUBOV, Journalist, Deutsche Welle

Speakers:

- Hans-Jürgen HEIMSOETH, Special Representative for Eastern Partnership, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Germany
- Marieluise BECK, Head of the Centre for Liberal Modernity, former Member of Bundestag

- Cristina GHERASIMOV, Research Fellow, German Council on Foreign Relations

11:00 – 11:30 Coffee break

11:30 – 13:00 **Session VII: POLITICAL VISION: A NEW FORMAT FOR THE THREE + EU?**

Speakers:

- Mihai POPȘOI, Deputy Speaker, Parliament of the Republic of Moldova
- Tamar KHUROLDAVA, Head of the European Integration Committee, the Parliament of Moldova (a video address)
- Ivanna KLYMPUSH-TSINTSADZE, Head of the Committee for Integration with the EU of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine
- Andrius KUBILIUS, MEP, Euronest Co-Chair, former Prime Minister of Lithuania

Moderator: Svitlana ZALISHCHUK, Foreign Policy Advisor to the Prime Minister of Ukraine

13:00 – 13:30 **WHAT NEXT? FORUM WRAP-UP**

13:30 Buffet Lunch

Departure of participants