

# UKRAINE'S IMPLEMENTATION OF 20 EASTERN PARTNERSHIP DELIVERABLES FOR 2020

Monitoring report by the Ukrainian National Platform  
of the EaP Civil Society Forum

September 2018 – September 2019



This monitoring report was prepared with the support of the European Union and the International Renaissance Foundation within the framework of the Civic Synergy Project and under the auspices of the Ukrainian National Platform of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum. Its content is the exclusive responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union and the International Renaissance Foundation.

### **Ukrainian National Platform of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum**



The Ukrainian National Platform is a network of more than 140 NGOs that aims at advocating interests of Ukrainian society within the Eastern Partnership Initiative. The Platform, established in 2011, is a part of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum.

The Platform aims at informing citizens of Ukraine, civil society representatives, politicians, civil servants and entrepreneurs about the EU Eastern Partnership initiative, as well as about monitoring and expert examination of key policies in the context of reforms' modernization potential related to the European integration processes. The goal of the National Platform is to strengthen the institutional capacity of civil society organizations to influence the agenda of reforms and Ukraine's international policy.

Like the Civil Society Forum as a whole, its Ukrainian National Platform works in five working groups reflecting the official thematic platforms of the Eastern Partnership:

1. Democracy, human rights, good governance and stability
2. Economic integration and convergence with EU policies
3. Environment, climate change and energy security
4. Contacts between people
5. Social and labour policies and social dialogue

### **Civic Synergy Project**

The Civic Synergy Project is aimed at strengthening public participation in the implementation of European integration reforms in Ukraine, through capacity-building and boosting of activities of the Ukrainian Side of the EU-Ukraine Civil Society Platform (US CSP) and the Ukrainian National Platform of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum (EaP CSF UNP). The project is funded by the European Union and the International Renaissance Foundation and implemented by IRF's European Program Initiative.

## FOREWORD

---

There are several factors that can make this study being of interest to representatives of European institutions, national government agencies, and independent experts.

First, the UNP EaP CSF is the only one of the Eastern Partnership's six national platforms that has experience in carrying out annual monitoring of the implementation of the EaP's "20 Deliverables for 2020." Each year, the Platform's experts analyse the dynamics of Ukraine's accomplishment of its tasks, paying special attention to institutional and procedural changes as well as to the openness and inclusiveness of the process. The findings of the three annual probes into the 20 deliverables implementation in Ukraine provide a good analytical framework for assessing its progress, and not only under these deliverables per se but also sectorally.

Second, since the European Union does not require the national governments of the EaP countries to report officially and publicly on the implementation of the "20 Deliverables for 2020," Ukrainian government institutions do not always present the results of the work they have done in this respect. This makes the monitoring report by the UNP EaP CSF the main alternative public report on Ukraine's participation in the Eastern Partnership.

Third, the monitoring format takes into account the approaches of the EU's European External Action Service to how it conducts, and presents the findings of, its own study on the 20 deliverables implementation by partner countries. Therefore,

our publication provides a good opportunity for comparing the Ukrainian track in the implementation to the EU's general consolidated indicators on the six partner countries.

Finally, besides reporting on the monitoring, the Platform's experts traditionally suggest their recommendations on how to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of realizing the 20 deliverables of the Eastern Partnership, adding one more practical dimension for institutions involved in decision-making.

In the context of this year's EU consultations on the Eastern Partnership's future beyond 2020, we additionally focused the current edition on suggestions aimed at strengthening cooperation between the European Union and the partner countries in the next medium term.

We hope that the monitoring of Ukraine's implementation of the EaP's "20 Deliverables for 2020" in 2019 will be of practical use to public authorities, European partners, researchers of European integration, and other stakeholders.

**Hennadiy Maksak,**

**Editor,**

**Chairman of the Foreign Policy Council**

**"Ukrainian Prism",**

**Country Facilitator of the Ukrainian National**

**Platform of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society**

**Forum (2017-2018)**

# GENERAL OVERVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS

## Progress in implementing 20 deliverables: advancing without haste

Since 2017, the Eastern Partnership countries have been cooperating with the European Union in a multilateral dimension based on the goals, objectives, and areas of cooperation set forth in the Joint Staff Working Document titled “Eastern Partnership – 20 Deliverables for 2020. Focusing on Key Priorities and Tangible Results.” Although the document, developed by the European External Action Service and Commission in collaboration with the EU Member States and Partner Countries, lacks ambitions in the way its deliverables and targets are formulated, the vast common space for interaction between the EU and the Partner Countries provided by the document can be seen as one of its positive features.

At present, in the context of the recently-launched process of revising and rethinking the Eastern Partnership (EaP) policy, special attention should be paid to a thorough analysis of the implementation of this document, at the levels of both the European institutions and the EaP countries. It is just the progress or stagnation in advancing some or other deliverables in 2018-2019 that may provide an additional key to understanding the EaP policy transformation directions for the next five or 10 years.

## Cross-cutting deliverables

Ukraine may be considered a leader among the EaP countries in the engagement with civil society, implementation of gender quality principles, and formation of a strategic communications system.

The **civil society development** in Ukraine, enhanced during the Revolution of Dignity in 2013-2014, features a high level of public activities at the national and local levels. Representatives of civil society organizations (CSOs) actively participate in the drafting of the regulatory acts that regulate the conditions and environment for civil society. There is also the active participation of representatives of the non-governmental sector in counselling governmental and parliamentary entities on the reform implementation. In 2019, like it was in 2014, civil society activists filled the ranks of MPs and civil servants in the legislature and government as well as other central and regional executive agencies.

The EU's timely support allowed the civil society sector to increase its organizational capacity. Particularly praiseworthy is the support provided to the Ukrainian National Platform of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum (UNP EaP CSF) and the Ukrainian Side of the EU-Ukraine Civil Society Platform (UA CSP). It would be expedient to continue the practice of supporting pro-European public networks in Ukraine and extend it to other EaP countries, too.

There is noticeable attention of the EU's projects to **gender equality**, which is at the top of government priorities in 2019. At the level of individual ministries, gender advisor positions have been established, gender audits are conducted, and gender equality strategies are adopted. The close attention to ensuring gender equality is also evidenced by its inclusion in Decree of the President of Ukraine No. 722/2019 of 30 Sep. 2019 "On the Sustainable Development Goals of Ukraine until 2030." The growth of women's political representation and involvement in business as well as the narrowing of the gender pay gap are also worth pointing out.

However, progress on the way of non-discrimination and anti-violation is somewhat slower. The urgent steps to be made still include adopting a State Social Programme for preventing domestic and gender-based violence until 2023 (its concept has been approved so far) and the ratification of the Istanbul Convention.

**Strategic communications** have acquired a more systemic character due to EU support, in particular, the Moving Forward Together campaign, and better coordination in donors' cooperation. Moreover, in 2019, the action plan for implementing the European Integration Communication Strategy was funded for the first time from the State Budget. Important in this context is that the new Cabinet of Prime Minister Oleksiy Honcharuk preserved the position of Vice Prime Minister for European and Euro-Atlantic Integration and the Government Office for Coordination of European and Euro-Atlantic Integration, the two being the main communicators on European integration for the Ukrainian population.

Since late 2019, The EU and Council of Europe have been implementing a project to facilitate

the process of media denationalization and Public Broadcasting development. The new government has earmarked bigger expenditures on the support of the Public Broadcasting in the State Budget for 2020. However, in 2019, according to experts, the information environment in Ukraine has become more vulnerable to the spread of Russian disinformation because of the policy of several popular TV news channels (such as ZIK, NewsOne, and 112 Ukraine).

### **Economic development and market opportunities**

In 2019, active measures were taken to implement the **SME Development** Strategy, including those under the EU4Business initiative. An SME Development Office was established within the Ministry for Development of Economy, Trade and Agriculture of Ukraine and a process was launched to set up a network of enterprise support centres at the regional and local levels.

In the context of the **harmonization of digital markets**, the year 2019 marked a significant step forward in the coordination of efforts. The Ministry of Digital Transformation has been established and a Roadmap for Ukraine's Integration into the EU's Digital Single Market and an Electronic Communications Code drafted. A Coalition for Digital Transformation has been initiated on the way to harmonization with the Digital Agenda and the EU's Digital Single Market. However, more active efforts should be addressed to ensure the operation of the electronic healthcare system and develop digital skills and competencies in Ukraine.

A number of strategic and programme documents provide for the development of **financial infrastructure** in Ukraine. In 2018-2019, steps were taken to reform the capital market, legislate foreign investment attraction, protect capital market

investors, and develop financial tools for banks. However, the development of additional sources of funds for SMEs and encouragement of lending in the national currency remain cornerstone challenges.

**New job opportunities at the local and regional level** are immediately related to the decentralization reform in Ukraine, where the EU assistance is very big. For example, 127 communities have joined the Mayors for Economic Growth initiative of the European Commission over two years of its implementation. Having regional development strategies designed on the Smart Specialization principles by the end of 2019 is mandatory for all Ukrainian oblasts. Although decentralization is considered one of Ukraine's most successful reforms, the financial stability of the newly-formed communities remains a serious challenge. Here, the EU should revise its approach to assistance and shift its focus toward the implementation of European practices of restoring local infrastructure facilities as well as the access to European resource funds.

**In the issues of trade and DCFTA implementation,** Ukraine has also demonstrated moderate progress. Traditionally, year by year, the volumes of Ukrainian export to the EU have been growing, and so has the number of entities that are allowed to enter the EU market with their products of animal origin. In 2019, the DCFTA-related lawmaking processes intensified. Legislative acts were adopted on the harmonization of Ukraine's regulatory framework with that of the EU in the area of technical regulation. Also on the legislative level, the procurement transparency was enhanced and the liability of unfair market participants tightened. In the autumn of 2019, a law on authorized economic operators (AEOs) was adopted for the implementation of the customs procedures reform.

## **Strengthening institutions and good governance**

**Rule of law and anti-corruption mechanisms** in Ukraine are traditionally in the limelight. By May 2019, six independent specialized anticorruption agencies were launched at a high state level and have been actively operating now. Coordination of their activities and avoidance of political influence on their work remain a problem. As of late 2019, half of the recommendations provided by GRECO in 2017 are still actual. However, the fact that the Constitutional Court of Ukraine recognized as unlawful the binding of representatives of anticorruption NGOs to file e-declarations is positive and noteworthy.

Little has been done in terms of legislative support of the **key judicial reforms** as of late 2019. In the summer and autumn 2018, a competition was held to select judges for the High Anti-Corruption Court of Ukraine, where a significant achievement was the involvement of independent international experts in the selection process. In September 2019, the President of Ukraine initiated the reload of the High Qualification Commission of Judges (HQCJ), with engagement of the High Council of Justice (HCJ) and international experts, as well as the establishment of a commission on ethics. However, experts are doubtful as to the effect of these steps without a change in the approaches to the formation of the HCJ itself.

The **implementation of public administration reform** also has had its positive developments over the period under review. In December 2018, the government approved a new version of the Public Administration Reform Strategy for a period of up to 2021 and an action plan for its implementation for 2019-2021. To a significant extent, the updated Strategy took into account recommendations and comments by Ukrainian and international experts.

The governmental progress report on the implementation of the Public Administration Reform Strategy in 2018, published in 2019, mentions the implementation of 63% of planned activities. However, the changes in Ukraine's political leadership and in the staff of key institutions responsible for the reform implementation have had an ambivalent impact on the reform process.

In the area of **security**, there is generally a high level of achieving the deliverable's targets related to cybercrime, civil protection, integrated border management, and CFSP/CSDP. Ukraine falls behind in the development of its regulatory framework to reinforce the protection of critical infrastructure and enhance cybersecurity elements. By and large, security as one of the 20 deliverables has to be given a higher priority in EU-Ukraine cooperation.

### **Connectivity, energy efficiency, and environment**

In 2019, in the process of its accession to the **TEN-T core networks**, Ukraine continued developing projects initiated earlier and advanced in settling a dispute with Romania on the Danube. In autumn 2019, the implementation of the EIB-funded Ukraine Urban Road Safety project was launched. To achieve the deliverable's targets, Ukraine must approach more thoroughly the development of investment projects included in the Indicative TEN-T Investment Action Plan.

During 2018-2019, the EU4Energy project actively worked with state institutions in Ukraine to implement the National Action Plan on **Energy Sector** Reform. This work included drafting laws and regulations, reviewing them by experts, upgrading skills of civil servants, and providing other technical and expert assistance. However, the deadlines for updating the projects of common interest of the

parties to the Energy Community, and, accordingly, the connecting infrastructure in the gas and electric segments, no longer match up the geopolitical realities in the region of Eastern Europe and may lose their significance as of 2020.

The launch of the Energy Efficiency Fund (EEF) and the reform of state support for renewable energy have become the biggest achievements of Ukraine in the domains of **energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy**. However, there is a risk of low demand for EEF services due to the high cost of borrowing.

In the area of **environment and adaptation to climate change**, the updated Environmental Strategy until 2030 was adopted in February 2019 with a focus on the decoupling of economic growth and environmental degradation. The National Waste Management Plan till 2030 was adopted in February 2019 to implement National Waste Strategy (NWS), *inter alia*, in streamlining the process of legislation adaptation to EU Waste Directives. The Guidelines for preparation of regional waste management plans were adopted by the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources (MENR) in the spring of 2019.

But the environmental protection's institutional system has been weakened by the merge of the Ministry of Ecology with the Ministry of Energy in the autumn of 2019. There is still no clear plan of institutional reform in the environmental domain.

### **Mobility and people-to-people contacts**

**Visa liberalization dialogues and mobility partnerships** are also one of Ukraine's success stories. During the two visa-free years, Ukrainian citizens have gone on 42.6 million trips to EU countries,



including over three million visa-free travels. According to experts, the demand for Schengen visas continues its downtrend among Ukrainians in 2019. However, despite abundance by the criteria set up in the visa suspension mechanism in general, an increase is registered in such migration indicators as refusal of entry and illegal stay in the territory of the EU Member States, although this increase is not critical.

In 2019, the government approved a National Strategy on Integrated Border Management until 2025 and an action plan for its implementation.

The implementation of the deliverable on **youth, education, skills development, and culture** features a high level of the Ukrainian party's activity and participation in the programmes and projects offered by the EU. In the autumn of 2019, the new Ministry of Education and Science team announced its intention to deregulate international scientific cooperation in order to remove most of the formal barriers.

On the whole, the number of Ukrainian participants in projects of the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (Horizon 2020) as beneficiaries has significantly increased. Thanks to the current Erasmus+ programme, better integration of the Ukrainian youth into the international community is achieved. However, the issue of increasing the capacity of Ukrainian institutions to organize internship for researchers from EU countries still requires attention.

An increase is also evident in the number of Ukrainian organizations participating in the Creative Europe programme, owing *inter alia* to the active work of the programme's National Bureau and support from the Ukrainian Cultural Foundation.

Ukraine has also improved its performance in **research and innovation**, thanks to the active work of governmental institutions among other things. In particular, within the Association framework, Ukraine has nominated its representatives for Horizon 2020 Programme Committees. Moreover, the results of the peer-review of Ukraine's research and innovation system have been summarized, and a process of joining European digital research infrastructures launched. However, the problem of operationalizing by Ukrainian research institutions of their opportunities to access the European research infrastructures remains pressing.

## CONCLUSIONS

The EaP's "20 Deliverables for 2020" is expiring in 2020, and its final results are very likely to be summarized at the EaP Summit in Zagreb in the first half of 2020. Therefore, the 2019 progress in implementing the tasks set up for Partner Countries is meaningful in terms of understanding the general trends in the EaP countries.

Looking at all the deliverables specified in the document, it can be noted that Ukraine has advanced in most areas of cooperation while approaching the achievement of the tasks and results in those areas where there are clear indicators of success.

However, an analysis of activities of Ukrainian governmental and non-governmental entities for each of the 20 deliverables shows that the transformation dynamics still fails to meet the societal demand and does not feature a systemic approach and consistency.

This can be partly explained by the fact that the year 2019 was a time of the profound transformations in Ukraine's internal politics that were



launched following the presidential and parliamentary elections. Volodymyr Zelensky's team has revised both the reform agenda in Ukraine and the communication strategy with major partners in the EU and NATO.

That said, it should be noted that a number of the new government's decisions during September-October 2019 has strengthened significantly the Ukrainian reporting positions in the context of the 20 deliverables implementation. We mean here the decisions on staffing the anticorruption agencies and a number of decisions aimed at fulfilling Ukraine's commitments under the Association Agreement and DCFTA implementation.

At present, it is still difficult to evaluate the new government's initiatives, which are either of a con-

ceptual nature or at the stage of drafted or just-passed legislation. The same applies to institutional changes at the government level in terms of setting up new ministries or merging some of the existing ones. It is quite possible that the first practical results of these reforms may emerge just before or after the 2020 Eastern Partnership Summit.

It is also expected that decisions on a new horizon of the European Neighbourhood Policy in its eastern dimension will be suggested at the EaP Summit. Therefore, based on the monitoring findings and taking into account Ukrainian experts' vision of Ukraine's place and role in the Eastern Partnership, the following recommendations may be proposed on directions in which the EaP should evolve in the medium term.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The existence of a programme paper, such as the "Eastern Partnership – 20 Deliverables for 2020," which guides cooperation in a multilateral format, is a positive step suggested by the EU in 2017. However, it is advisable that the new medium-term documents are planned so that to fit in with the EU financial planning cycles in order that the Partner Countries would have a clear understanding of their resource capacities to fill in different formats of cooperation. In addition, exceeding the five-year term of the European institutions' electoral cycles could become a restraint against possible abrupt steps and political initiatives of new teams in European institutions;
2. The multilateral and bilateral dimensions need clear differentiation. It seems that a better practice here could be singling out multilateral tools into one EU document on the Eastern Partnership, whereas the bilateral track should be based on bilateral framework documents. It is characteristic of official Kyiv to distinguish bilateral cooperation with the EU and the Eastern Partnership as multilateral cooperation. Accordingly, this approach is reflected in the prioritization in Ukraine's cooperation with the EU. However, a preliminary analysis by experts from the Ukrainian National Platform of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum shows that the "20 Deliverables for 2020" document sometimes duplicates norms of the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement and sometimes sets up additional tasks. The European Union should take this into account when drafting new framework documents for the medium term and make a clearer distinction between the tracks of cooperation in order to improve the tasks implementation efficiency.

3. Despite the adjustments made in 2017 in the multilateral architecture of cooperation between the EU and the EaP countries, the political engagement of the partner countries' leadership in the EaP policy affairs remains quite low. It is advisable to continue moving further from the format of discussions toward joint decision-making mechanisms at the leadership level of the EU and EaP, which may become a basis for rendering more flexibility and taking account of partners' needs in the EaP region. An additional network of institutional cohesion of the six Partner Countries may have a positive impact on strengthening the interregional ties, which, as a matter of fact, is exactly one of the goals of the European Neighbourhood Policy in its eastern dimension. The bigger differentiation and flexibility, the higher motivation for EaP countries to participate in various platforms.
4. The format of cooperation of the three countries that have signed their Association Agreements with the EU can be filled with additional content, and this is shown even by the dynamics of the "20 Deliverable for 2020" implementation. In pursuance of the provisions of the Eastern Partnership Declaration of 2017 on a possibility to set up informal consultation platforms for Ukraine, Georgia, and Moldova, such cooperation forms may be initiated, e.g., to learn and counteract hybrid threats, or solve issues related to the harmonization of legislation on eCommerce, eCustoms, and eLogistics, or participate in the development of transport corridors;
5. The new medium-term document's targets on foreign trade should correspond to the most ambitious goals of integration into the EU's common market. This primarily concerns Ukraine, Georgia, and Moldova, which have the DCFTAs with the EU. The three countries should, on their own initiative, jointly come forward with sectoral integration suggestions, which could include targets such as the signing of ACAA, mutual recognition of AEOs, the full reciprocal opening of government procurement markets, etc.
6. An account should be taken of the new trends in relations between EU Member States and Partner Countries. We mean here, e.g., the new realities in labour migration, where Ukraine acts as a labour force donor for the countries of Central and Western Europe. New bilateral rules and arrangements could lay down a basis for general regulations on the labour migration from the EaP region to EU countries;
7. Security, which is multidimensional in its nature, should be brought up to the level of cross-cutting tasks. Considered in the security dimension should be a variety of issues, including strategic communication, economic cooperation in the region in the context of third-country impact, and energy dependence of the Partner Countries on Russia. It is just the security component that requires a more serious institutional support of activities;
8. Cooperation on security and defence between Ukraine and the EU could significantly advance a formal decision of EU countries on third-country access to projects under Permanent Structured Cooperation on Defence (PESCO). At present, such a decision has not been approved despite state-

ments by some of the EaP countries that they wish to join certain projects. It would be good if the development of a new medium-term framework for the EaP policy implementation took place after an affirmative and clear decision by the EU members on possible forms of third-country participation in PESCO defence projects;

9. Ukraine should take a more active part in programmes or initiatives suggested by the EU either within or outside the EaP framework inasmuch as they have additional potential for a deeper thematic or sectoral integration. For example, Ukraine could make use of such EU initiatives as the Hybrid Risks Survey or the Horizon 2020 Policy Support Facility as well as intensify its activities under a number of other programmes.

<b>CROSS-CUTTING DELIVERABLES</b>		
1	Structured engagement with civil society	++
2	Gender equality and non-discrimination	++
3	Strategic communications and plurality and independence of media	++
<b>ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND MARKET OPPORTUNITIES</b>		
4	Regulatory environment and SME development	++
5	Gaps in access for finance and financial infrastructure	++
6	New job opportunities at local and regional level	++
7	Harmonization of digital markets	++
8	Trade and DCFTA implementation	++
<b>STRENGTHENING INSTITUTIONS AND GOOD GOVERNANCE</b>		
9	Rule of law and anti-corruption mechanisms	++
10	Implementation of key judicial reforms	++
11	Implementation of public administration reform	++
12	Security	++
<b>CONNECTIVITY, ENERGY EFFICIENCY, ENVIRONMENT</b>		
13	Extension of the TEN-T core networks	++
14	Energy supply	+
15	Energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy, reducing greenhouse gas emissions	++
16	Environment and adaptation to climate change	++
<b>MOBILITY AND PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE CONTACTS</b>		
17	Visa liberalization and mobility partnerships	++
18	Youth, education, skill development, and culture	++
19	Eastern Partnership European School	+++
20	Research and innovation	++

# CROSS-CUTTING DELIVERABLES

## 1. STRUCTURED ENGAGEMENT WITH CIVIL SOCIETY

The number of civil society organizations in Ukraine keeps its positive dynamics of growth. As of 1 Jan. 2019, there were registered 84,608 NGOs, 1,455 public associations, 26,075 religious organizations, 28,026 trade unions, 314 creative unions, 18,433 charitable organizations, and 1,572 population self-organization bodies (the data does not include CSOs registered in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol).

During 2018, the action plan under the National Strategy for Civil Society Development in Ukraine for 2016–2020 was implemented at 70%. In particular, the planned activities include a dialogue between NGOs and the government on advancing the European integration reforms. The financial soundness of CSOs in terms of their access to financial resources from the public and private sectors is slowly improving. According to the amendments to the Cabinet of Ministers Decree No. 1049 “On Approving the Competition Procedure for Determination of Programmes (Projects, Activities) Developed by Civil Society Institutions for the Implementation of which Financial Support Is Provided,” certain procedures for competitive state funding of CSOs have been simplified. The communication formats between authorities and CSOs are being developed, although they need to be implemented and require attention to the interaction results. Measures to improve the situation in NGO-government interaction are needed, and so is the further development of steps on collaboration and better resource resilience.

There is an ongoing dialogue between the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum (EaP CSF) and the Ukrainian National Platform of the EaP CSF (UNP EaP CSF, which unites over 140 organizations). The pro-European civil society platforms – the UNP EaP CSF and the Ukrainian Side of the EU-Ukraine Civil Society Platform – actively collaborate with the government, monitoring the implementation of the Association Agreement and the Eastern Partnership sectoral policies’ goals. To lead advocacy activities and set up a proper monitoring system for the Agreement implementation, CSOs require support from stakeholders, strengthening of their institutional capacity to cooperate within the national platforms framework, and support of the working groups’ activities. To a significant extent, international technical assistance is aimed at supporting the government in enhancing its capacity to implement the Association Agreement and monitor it in the European integration process. However, the number of projects aimed at the organizational capacity building of NGOs, in particular, independent think tanks to support independent monitoring, evaluation, and advocacy of reforms, as well as to respond to security threats, is small.

Negative trends in the relationships between NGOs and authorities were also observed during the last year. For example, the requirement for anticorruption activists to declare their assets was introduced in 2018, worsening the legal regulation situation, although this requirement was repealed in 2019, *inter alia* as a result of advocacy campaigns by NGOs. The negative trends also appeared as the increased number of attacks against activists by politicians and physical assaults upon them (over 50), these cases not being properly investigated.

### **Recommended priorities (for 2020):**



- Since the current National Strategy for Civil Society Development in Ukraine expires in 2020, the government in conjunction with NGOs should develop policy papers on their collaboration in the next period, and laws should be adopted that would introduce clearer processes of mutual consultation between the government and civil society organizations during the policy making and implementation;
- Maintaining a permanent dialogue between CSOs and the governments in EaP countries on democracy, CSO development for support of reforms, development of public participation procedures, support of democratic governance, and human rights;
- Updating programmes on sharing the best reform practices between CSOs and the governments in EaP countries;
- Launching further implementation stages of the EU's CSO support programmes in order to reinforce activities of the national platforms and their working groups as well as carry out monitoring and evaluation of the European integration tasks implementation;
- Promoting digital innovation in the development of CSOs and their e-participation in the fight against corruption.

### **Suggestions for revising the Eastern Partnership policy:**

- Develop inter-sectoral cooperation on the development and deepening of dialogue and interaction between the governments and CSOs

in EaP countries, in particular, in the areas of local democracy, good governance, European integration, and human rights;

- Facilitate the development and implementation of effective models for financial and organizational resilience in the non-profit sector as well as sharing the best practices of interaction between CSOs and the governments.

## **2. GENDER EQUALITY AND NON-DISCRIMINATION**

As in 2018, the 2019 Government Priority Action Plan includes a number of gender equality objectives. Gender equality is supported across the sectors. In particular, some ministries of Ukraine (e.g., Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Social Policy, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Communities and Territories Development of Ukraine) have introduced gender advisory practices, conducted gender audits, and adopted gender equality strategies.

Line ministries have approved guidelines on designing gender-sensitive public policies on domestic violence (Ministry of Education and Science), legal expert examination of legislation and draft laws (Ministry of Justice), and gender responsive budgeting (Ministry of Finance).

Gender equality and women's empowerment goals were updated in Presidential Decree No. 722/2019 On Ukraine's Sustainable Development Goals till 2030, issued on September 30, 2019.

The decentralization reform is being implemented with a strong focus on gender mainstreaming at local level, although, to a greater extent, it is supported by international partners.

The priorities of EU4Youth calls for proposals include ensuring reach-out, in particular, to young people from rural areas and young women.

The women's business lending programme (a financial component of the EBRD Women in Business programme) has been launched. Support practices for promoting youth women's entrepreneurship are developed at the regional level.

### **Recommended priorities (for 2020):**



- Adopt the State Social Programme for Preventing and Responding to Domestic and Gender-Based Violence till 2023 (a concept approved);
- Finalize the draft Sustainable Development Strategy of Ukraine by 2030 with regard to gender sensitivity and identification of correct gender-sensitive indicators;
- Ratify the Istanbul Convention;
- Conduct a gender analysis / expertise of the decentralization policy framework and mainstream gender equality priorities, gender-sensitive goals and indicators into the framework;
- Ensure that gender equality and women's empowerment frameworks are integrated into regional strategies;
- Increase women's political representation and reduce the gender pay gap;
- Strengthen support for women in business. According to the study "Visible and Invisible Barriers: a Gender Based Analysis (GBA) of the Export Challenges of Ukrainian micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs)" published in 2019, if to compare with men, women remain underrepresented among owners or managers of micro,

small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs). Women-led MSMEs are less likely to engage in export or enter foreign markets in the future compared to similar sized men-led businesses. Women-led MSMEs are also deeply concerned about traditional gender stereotypes and the double burden for women that limits their capacity to do business internationally.

### **Suggestions for revising the Eastern Partnership policy:**

- Increase pressure on EaP countries to ensure gender equality, in particular gender-balanced representation in decision-making at all levels.

### **3. STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS, PLURALITY AND INDEPENDENCE OF MEDIA**

- In the past year, the following progress has been made towards achieving strategic communications targets and strengthening media independence:
- Public awareness about the role of the European Union in the reform process in various sectors has increased among the population of Ukraine, in particular due to the unified branding and communication campaign (*Moving Forward Together*) for all EU-funded projects in Ukraine that was launched in March 2018. The progress also rests upon the increase in the amount of media products about the EU and the opportunities offered to citizens through the Europe integration. Increased quantity and quality of media content has been made possible by the coordinated efforts of various donor agencies (EU Delegation, EU Member States Embassies, USAID, UNDP, etc.) and a common position on promoting the EU's role in Ukraine's development.

The Government has approved and implemented the 2019 Action Plan for implementation of the 2018–2021 European Integration Communication Strategy, funded for the first time from the budget. As part of the implementation process, relevant media products and communication events were created and disseminated on a competitive basis. The Government has ensured coordinated efforts between and among all central executive authorities to communicate about the implementation of the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement by establishing special Coordinating Council consisting of representatives from the Government and civil society. The new Government has carried on the relevant programme and is drawing up a 2020 Action Plan. Another positive factor is that the new Government has maintained the position and Office of the Deputy Prime Minister for European and Euro-Atlantic Integration, because it regularly cooperated with the media and civil society to raise public awareness of the European integration.

- The Deputy Prime Minister for European and Euro-Atlantic Integration and his/her office (previous and current governments) has worked closely with the media and civil society to improve public awareness of the European integration.
- In September 2018, the EU and Council of Europe launched the project aimed at supporting denationalization of media and establishing public broadcasting system. In addition, according to the 2020 state budget bill, expenditures on public broadcasting are to increase compared to 2019.

However, the overall media landscape of Ukraine has become more susceptible to misinformation and propaganda of the Russian Federation, as the most powerful and highest-rated news channels (ZIK,

NewsOne, 112 Ukraine) were influenced by Pro-Russian politicians.

### **Recommended priorities (for 2020):**

- Ensure independence and further development of Public Broadcasting, since it runs the risk of phasing out and being underfunded by the present government in case of non-compliance with the 2020 indicators developed taking into account commercial channels;
- Introduce system changes to protect the information space of Ukraine from interference and information attacks by the Russian Federation and providers of its interests in Ukraine, especially during the election campaign (the forthcoming local elections). Introduce the German anti-hate speech rules (NetzDG) and the French model of fighting against the manipulation of information;
- Ensure constant media coverage of the European integration and European values by initiating and supporting special media projects.

### **Suggestions for revising the Eastern Partnership policy:**

- Introduce small loans or seed funds to support emerging independent media;
- Establish a measurement system for EaP media freedom and public broadcasting indices and provide technical assistance to the countries based on the Index rankings.



# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & MARKET OPPORTUNITIES

## 4. REGULATORY ENVIRONMENT AND SMEs DEVELOPMENT

The implementation of SME Development Strategy that incorporates the principles set out in the Small Business Act for Europe has been accelerated in the past year. The EU4Business initiative has contributed significantly to the implementation of the Strategy and support for SMEs in Ukraine.

In particular, a number of relevant projects are being implemented, and the SMEs Development Office has been set up within the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade of Ukraine. The Office has initiated the establishment of a network of regional and local business support centres within existing local government institutions, in particular administrative service centres, which is an important step towards improving the institutional environment for SMEs in the regions. At the same time, EU4Business has helped to establish business support centres in 15 regions of Ukraine.

The State Information Portal for SMEs is currently under development. It will open up access to financial instruments and training programs.

EaP business forums continue to offer the main instrument for regional economic diplomacy.

### **Recommended priorities (for 2020):**



- Initiate drafting of a new framework of economic diplomacy for developing mutually beneficial trade and attracting investment in the EaP region, taking into account the specific features of development and economic priorities of each country (assisted by the European Commission);
- Develop and implement the internal monitoring and evaluation system for enhancing alignment with the principles of the Small Business Act for Europe, and ensure its transparency.

### **Suggestions for revising the Eastern Partnership policy:**

- The existing EaP policy should be revised and diversified: separate platforms should be created to help exchange best practices and develop cooperation between business sectors of the countries, depending on their economic priorities and economic harmonisation with the EU (e.g. economic forums for associated countries; conferences for countries in the preparatory phase for EU association; negotiation venues with regard to the development of international transport corridors in the EaP region, etc.).

## 5. GAPS IN ACCESS TO FINANCE AND FINANCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE

The Comprehensive Program of Ukraine Financial Sector Development until 2020 includes capital market reform and a list of EU legislation that must be implemented under the Association Agreement. Pursuant to the 2018 Program Report, capital market reform allowed to amend the legislation on attracting foreign investments and submit to Parliament the bills on investor protection in capital markets, rating, development of bank financial instruments, attraction of investments and new financial instruments, and capital market development.

Pursuant to the Law of Ukraine "On Amendments to Certain Laws of Ukraine on Establishing and Maintaining the Credit Register of the National Bank of Ukraine and Improving Credit Risk Management of Banks" adopted on 06 February 2018, all banks shall provide information to the NBU Credit Register. Today, the NBU Credit Register includes information on more than 80 thousand borrowers - individuals (53.2 thousand) and legal entities (27.2 thousand). The NBU has adopted the policy to allow banks use Credit Register data for credit risk assessment. The requirements will be effective and binding on 01 December 2019.

The SMEs Development Strategy until 2020 (adopted on 24 May 2017) and the related Action Plan provide for setting up and developing alternative sources for SMEs financing. At this time, the SMEs Development Office established by the Ministry of Economic Development partners with the state-owned enterprise ProZorro to launch the Factoring for SMEs Project in public procurement.

Phase II of the SMEs Financing Facility was designed for 2016–2030 with a budget of €15.4 million to stimulate lending to SMEs in Hryvnia. In 2017, the loan to ProCredit Bank Ukraine denominated in Ukrainian Hryvnia, equivalent to EUR 60 million, was made possible by the European Commission and TCX, an international currency exchange fund. There is currently no credible data to estimate the share of EU assistance provided in Ukrainian Hryvnia.

### **Recommended priorities (for 2020):**



The main challenges are alternative sources of funding for SMEs and providing incentives for loans in Hryvnia. In order to address gaps in access to finance and financial infrastructure it is required to cut interest rates and ensure access to European capital markets.

### **Suggestions for revising the Eastern Partnership policy:**

Ukraine should insist on making COSME financial instrument available for domestic SMEs.

## 6. NEW JOB OPPORTUNITIES AT LOCAL AND REGIONAL LEVEL

127 communities have joined the Mayors for Economic Growth Initiative since it was launched in Ukraine two years ago. 6 out of 16 EaP projects that received support are Ukrainian. The Local Economic Development Plans elaborated within the Initiative fall short of Ukraine's regulatory requirements, thus bringing imbalance to the planning system.

Decentralization reform is considered among the most successful ones in Ukraine. The reform is

implemented in accordance with the Concept for reforming local government and territorial administration in Ukraine and has nothing to do with the Public Administration Reform Strategy. The biggest achievement of the reform is a growing number of amalgamated territorial communities, while the biggest challenge is reduced financial capacity of amalgamated territorial communities. The reform goals have not yet been achieved.

Regional development projects are funded from the State Regional Development Fund, which was set up under the Law "On the Principles of State Regional Policy" adopted on 05 February 2015. The project selection system and quality of projects are constantly criticized and need to be improved.

Regional development strategies are elaborated by working groups that include regional / local stakeholders. Regional / local stakeholders participate in the Regional Committees to evaluate and select competing investment programs and projects to be funded by the State Regional Development Fund.

Smart specialization strategies must be integrated into regional development strategies throughout Ukraine by the end of 2019. Odessa, Kharkiv and Zaporizhzhia Oblasts were selected as pilot participants in the Smart Specialization Platform, managed by the European Commission's Joint Research Centre.

The Concept of development of Farms and Agricultural Cooperatives for 2018–2020 provides some incentives for farmers' groups. The Law "On Agricultural Cooperation" was adopted in the first reading on June 04, 2019. It is challenging to achieve the goal of creating at least 1000 business-oriented farming groups.

Progress in implementation of the Agricultural Sector Development Strategy until 2020 cannot be evaluated since there are no reports available. The 2015–2020 Unified Integrated Strategy for Agriculture and Rural Development remains on paper only.

### **Recommended priorities (for 2020):**

EU should shift the focus of its support for decentralization and regional development from awareness raising and training of communities to introducing European approaches to infrastructure development and providing access to structural funds.

### **Suggestions for revising the Eastern Partnership policy:**

To ensure change in the cooperative movement, EU should support the establishment of Regional Multifunctional Cooperative Development Training and Resource Centres.

## **7. HARMONIZATION OF DIGITAL MARKETS**

The Ministry of Digital Transformation has been established in Ukraine, and a roadmap of Ukraine's integration into the European Union's Single Digital Market has been drafted, which will contribute to the harmonization of digital markets with the EU and the Eastern Partnership countries.

The draft Electronic Communications Code has been developed to strengthen the independence and regulatory capacity of the national communications regulatory authority (the National Commission for the State Regulation of Communications and Informatization).

During the 3rd Eastern Partnership Ministerial Meeting on the Digital Economy (28 February 2019), the EaP Ministers (including the Minister of Economy of Ukraine) reaffirmed their commitment to sign by the end of 2020 a Regional Roaming Agreement, in order to reduce the international roaming charges within the EaP region and adopted the joint roadmap. At the initiative of Ukraine, the EU and EaP Ministers also agreed to explore the possibility of a common international roaming space and reducing roaming tariffs between the EaP countries and the EU Member States.

Ukraine began the development of its National Broadband Strategy.

The Government approved the regulation (policy) to provide the mechanism of mutual recognition of Ukrainian and foreign public key certificates, electronic signatures and recognition of electronic trust services and foreign public key enablers for secure cross-border electronic services in Ukraine. This regulation will facilitate further development of cross-border e-commerce.

The Law of Ukraine "On Electronic Trust Services" has come into force.

Ukraine has created the Digital Transformation Coalition aimed, among other things, to improve digital skills of young people and general public and align the national rules to the Digital Agenda and the Single Digital Market of EU.

The relevant government agencies have their work systematized and their responsibilities identified to improve the e-Health digital service infrastructure, including as follows: the administrator brand of the eHealth central database (eZdorovyia) created to ensure digital transformation of the country's

healthcare system; a Memorandum of Cooperation signed between the Administrator and the IT Ukraine Association to develop health information initiatives; the digital transformation and health Ministries have agreed on a joint plan of priorities and actions for the development of eHealth.

### **Recommended priorities (for 2020):**

- Initiate the creation of a separate discussion platform between the EaP partner countries and the EU to discuss and address issues related to the harmonization of eCommerce, eCustoms, and eLogistics rules and create digital cross-border transport corridors;
- Immediately begin developing a digital skills and competence development strategy in Ukraine bringing it in line with relevant EU strategies;
- Develop a sustainable state financing scheme for the electronic healthcare system of Ukraine.

### **Suggestions for revising the Eastern Partnership policy:**

The future EaP targets in this area should focus on developing EU's initiatives to integrate EaP countries into major European networks within the EU Single Digital Market, in particular: European Innovation Ecosystems; eHealth Network; The Digital Skills and Jobs Coalition, etc.

## **8. DCFTA IMPLEMENTATION**

In 2018, Ukraine's exports to the EU rose by 15% and reached its historical high of \$20 billion, exceeding the previous record of 2008. The EU's

share reached 42%. The set of export items expanded. The number of enterprises that were allowed to enter the EU market with their products of animal origin also increased. The EU remains the major investor in the Ukrainian economy.

During the last year, especially in the autumn, the DCFTA-related lawmaking processes intensified. In particular, several laws were adopted with the purpose of completing the harmonization of the regulatory framework in the area of technical regulation. This is an important prerequisite for the EU Monitoring Mission to start assessing Ukraine's progress in preparation for negotiations on an Agreement on Conformity Assessment and Acceptance of Industrial Products (ACAA). The government procurement system continues to improve, too, and a law was adopted that further increases both the transparency of procurement and the liability of unfair market participants.

Until recently, Ukraine fell behind with its commitments related to the customs reforms, specifically with implementing provisions of the Convention on a Common Transit Procedure and the Convention on the Simplification of Formalities in Trade in Goods, as well as with passing a law on authorized economic operators (AEOs). The required laws were adopted in the autumn of 2019.

#### **Recommended priorities (for 2020):**



- Ensure that the EU Monitoring Mission on ACAA is carried out and its recommendations are effectively implemented in order to start ACAA negotiations as soon as possible;
- Ensure the implementation of new legislation on AEOs and transit procedures at a level sufficient for launching negotiations on mutual

recognition of AEOs and the accession to the EU common transit system;

- Start updating and upgrading the DCFTA (annexes to the Agreement) to deepen the opportunities for integration into the EU common market.

#### **Suggestions for revising the Eastern Partnership policy:**

- The EaP's objectives in foreign trade should correspond with the most ambitious goals of integrating into the EU common market, at least for the countries that have a DCFTA with the EU. They also have to ensure the continuity, that is, measure subsequent work in the areas covered by the 2020 targets. We suggest setting up, as new targets, finalizable and measurable landmarks in the areas where the 2020 targets were to prepare countries for some final step or other. For example, the signing of an ACAA could be a result of the "*regulatory approximation enabling the launch of negotiations on ACAA*," the mutual recognition of AEOs could be a result of "*enabling a dialogue on mutual recognition of AEOs*," and the complete mutual opening of the government procurement markets could be a result of the "*increased market access opening on reciprocal basis in public procurement*." Other targets in addition to the above might include mutual recognition of the food safety equivalents for at least 10 commodities and the extension of the list of EU services markets subject to mutual opening.

# STRENGTHENING INSTITUTIONS AND GOOD GOVERNANCE

## 9. RULE OF LAW AND ANTICORRUPTION INFRASTRUCTURE

There are six fully-operational specialized anticorruption agencies at Ukraine's central level: the National Anti-Corruption Bureau of Ukraine (NABU), the National Agency on Corruption Prevention (NACP), the Specialized Anti-Corruption Prosecutor's Office (SAPO), the Asset Recovery and Management Agency (ARMA), the State Bureau of Investigation (SBI, launched in November 2018), and the High Anti-Corruption Court of Ukraine (HACC, formation complete as recently as May 2019). Over its first months of operation, the SBI has initiated 5,749 criminal proceedings. The first bill of indictment from the NABU and SAPO to the HACC was brought just in September 2019. Effective interaction between these institutions has not been established.

The NACP has overcome the long-lasting glitches in its Unified State Register for declarations of persons authorized to perform functions of the state or local governments. Smooth operation of the automated Logical and Arithmetic Checking (LAC) system has been set up, and all necessary protocols for accessing all registries and databases signed. Thanks to this automation, the number of checks has doubled (over 1,000 full declaration checks). However, 823,000 civil servants became individuals subject to declaring their assets in 2019. All MPs of the Verkhovna Rada of the 8th convocation were monitored for the conflict of interests

prevention and settlement and checked for their compliance with requirements as to combining their duties with other jobs or activities.

The Ukrainian register of beneficial owners was synchronized with the Global Beneficial Ownership Register, and a roadmap was signed in July 2019 to develop a concept of, and implement, an information verification mechanism.

In 2018, the ARMA started to fully exercise the assets (estate) recovery functions of the state, having gained experience in identifying, freezing, confiscating, and managing the assets. During the year, it handled over thousand applications from law enforcement agencies in Ukraine and worked with assets retrieval enquiries from foreign institutions.

In the end of November 2019 the law on introducing liability for illegal enrichment took into force.

At the same time, as of late 2019, half of the GRECO recommendations from 2017 remain unimplemented. However, the fact that the Constitutional Court of Ukraine recognized as unlawful the binding of representatives of anticorruption NGOs to file e-declarations is positive and noteworthy.

Regretfully, the interaction between the anticorruption agencies is ineffective. For several years, loud scandals and mutual accusations of the NACP, NABU and SAPO chiefs have been a matter of se-

vere criticism, undermining public confidence in these agencies. Still unresolved are the problem of unhindered access of the NABU to all declarations received by the NACP and the problem of exempting the staff of the Security Service of Ukraine and the Military Prosecutor's Office from filing declarations. Only 57 persons were charged by the NABU over eight months of 2019, of which as few as two were convicted by a final judgement. Half of NABU and SAPO cases are pending in courts, and trial of more than 50 cases has not been yet launched. A clear case prioritization procedure for the HACC docket could amend the situation.

Characterizing the influence of the ex- and newly-elected presidents on anticorruption activities, it can be noted that Petro Poroshenko endeavoured to create an infrastructure of anticorruption agencies, *inter alia* following advice and requests from the United States and the EU. However, the last two years of his presidency featured his reluctance to strengthen the anticorruption agencies and ensure their effective functioning. With President Zelensky, the anticorruption policy undergoes revision. On the one hand, there are messages on stepping up the fight against corruption, but on the other hand, there are certain attempts to subordinate the NABU and SBI to the presidential sphere of influence.

#### **Recommended priorities (for 2020):**



The process of developing the ARMA's Unified State Register of Seized Assets should be accelerated, as should be the planned establishment of a specialized financial investigation body (a single agency to fight economic crime, tax evasion in particular).

#### **Suggestions for revising the Eastern Partnership policy:**

Criteria for measuring the key indicators need to be developed since the evaluation of meeting each of the indicators is too generalized and can be distorted by subjectivity.

### **10. IMPLEMENTATION OF KEY JUDICIAL REFORMS**

As of end-October 2019, Ukraine has made little progress in passing necessary legislation. The competition to the High Anti-Corruption Court was held around summer and autumn 2018 based on the package of bills adopted in 2016 (establishing a new Supreme Court, 1402-VIII, and the Anti-Corruption Court, 2447-VIII, as new institutions under a separate more transparent procedure).

The good news is that independent international experts were involved in the selection of judges to the Anti-Corruption Court. The Civic Council of International Experts had the right to veto unqualified candidates whose integrity and professional competence were not properly justified. Therefore, no questionable candidates were allowed to the High Anti-Corruption Court. Not only experienced judges, but also lawyers and legal academics were recruited to the higher courts.

However, the procedures established in these laws have not yet brought the desired result. Actual independence of fellow members of the High Qualifications Commission of Judges (HQCJ) and the High Council of Justice (HCJ) remain questionable given manipulative nature and lack of transparency in determining competition results and the advancement of unqualified judges who do not meet the criteria of professional ethics and virtue.



In the 2019 Rule of Law Index, Ukraine went up four positions, gaining no additional points over 2018. Thus, as of June 2019, the Ukrainian courts have relatively little public trust. For example, according to the Razumkov Centre sociological surveys, only 14% of citizens fully trust Ukrainian courts while 75% of respondents declare no trust at all.

In September 2019, President Volodymyr Zelensky, the newly elected Ukrainian leader, initiated the re-launch of the HQCJ with the High Council of Justice and international experts involved. The Bill also refers to an ethics committee to ensure integrity and virtue of the HQCJ and HCJ members. However, there is a risk that a re-launched HQCJ and a new ethics and integrity committee will remain ineffective unless the HCJ is fully restarted and new approaches are adopted.

In September 2019, a new Law on Public Prosecutor's Office Reform was adopted. It provides for a full-fledged staff reboot, including re-certification of incumbent prosecutors and recruitment of new ones on a competitive basis.

#### **Recommended priorities (for 2020):**



- Revise the composition of judicial governance bodies (HQCJ and HCJ) to involve more well-trusted civil society representatives as well as independent international experts in the selection of HQCJ and HCJ members with a decisive vote;
- Develop and implement clear rules for transferring public prosecutors by competition and under a clearly defined procedure.

#### **Suggestions for revising the Eastern Partnership policy:**

- Make a suggestion for judicial councils to temporarily (for the reform period) move away from the judicial self-government standards ("majority of judges elected by their peers"), which only contribute to the improper corporatization of the system, and engage well-trusted public representatives to the judicial governance bodies.
- Recommend temporarily renouncing the principle of irremovability of judges, which conflicts with the reform (updating the judicial composition) and allows corrupt judges to retain their posts.

### **11. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION REFORM IN UKRAINE**

In April 2019, the Government of Ukraine published its progress report on the implementation of the Public Administration Reform Strategy in 2018. According to the report, the reform in that year much advanced. By the end of 2018, 50 of 79 (63%) planned activities were fully carried out, marking a better result as against 55% in 2017.

A total of 58 directorates were formed in 10 pilot ministries, two state agencies, and the Secretariat of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine (CMU), and their civil servants underwent the full cycle of performance evaluation. For the first time, the organizational culture and climate in civil service were studied based on the methodology of Stanford University.

On 18 Dec. 2018, the CMU approved a new version of the Public Administration Reform Strategy for

a period of up to 2012 and an action plan for its implementation for 2019–2021. To a significant extent, the updated Strategy took into account recommendations and comments set forth in reports by NGOs and the Accounting Chamber as well as the “Baseline Measurement Report: The Principles of Public Administration” (SIGMA, 2018).

According to the “Civil Assessment of Public Administration Reform (Shadow Report),” the National Agency of Ukraine for Civil Service (NAUCS) was able to ensure transparent and professional competitions as envisaged by the Law “On Civil Service” (2016). This allowed recruiting for civil service new staff – highly-motivated, with new approaches, and result-oriented. The Law laid the foundations for the making of a professional civil service “beyond politics,” clearly dividing “political” and “non-political” positions in a ministry. Nevertheless, even though expert groups leaders and state experts do not feel a direct political pressure on their activities, the political pressure at the level of directorate management depends on a minister’s personal attitude toward the reform and varies from ministry to ministry.

Another result of the reform in the pilot ministries is the increased transparency of the ministries’ operation due to the decentralization of their communication channels. In addition, the establishment of the directorates has facilitated a more efficient and structured communication with stakeholders in the decision-making process.

Significant progress was achieved in the development of a service-oriented state by means of digital tools. Fifty-four new Administrative Service Centres were opened and 118 electronic services launched in 2018. Over the year, 193 public authorities, institutions, and organizations were connected to a system for electronic interaction of execu-

tive authorities. As a result, electronic interagency interaction has been implemented in a total of 673 organizations.

However, many of the tasks intended to improve the Law “On State Statistics” in line with the Generic Law on Official Statistics still remain unfulfilled. And although SIGMA’s Baseline Measurement Report reiterates the lack of effective mechanisms for the collection, storage, and analysis of key statistical data, the updated Strategy does not reflect this line of the reform.

The preparation of high-quality analytical accompanying papers (policy analysis papers) failed to be fully implemented, too, also because of the data collection and analysis shortcomings. In April 2018, the CMU issued Decree No. 326 “On Amending the Rules of Procedure of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine,” which had to include elements of policy analysis in the procedure for drafting acts of the Government. However, the reinforcement of the analytical component depends not so much on having such a requirement decreed as on the capacity of experts to ensure it as well as on whether quality control is in place.

Finally, it should be noted that the changes in Ukraine’s political leadership have had an ambivalent impact on the dynamics of the public administration reform implementation. There was a significant shuffle of executives in the institutions that ensured the reform implementation (e.g., replacement of the NAUCS chief). It is still unclear, how high on the new Government’s agenda the item of public administration reform will be.

#### **Recommended priorities (for 2020):**



- Develop amendments to the Law “On State Statistics” in line with the Generic Law on Of-

ficial Statistics that would allow significantly improving the fact-based policy-making procedure as well as ensure effective monitoring and evaluation mechanisms for the policy implementation;

- Back up the implementation of policy analysis elements in the CMU regulation-making procedure with guidelines and recommendations on how to translate analytical papers into regulatory acts. This should be accompanied by professional training programmes for the staff of both the newly-formed directorates and the unreformed ministerial departments.

### ***Suggestions for revising the Eastern Partnership policy:***

It is worth noting that the EU's uniform treatment of the Eastern Partnership countries, given the significant institutional and political differences across them, does not allow efficiently using resources and tools of some policy or other, even though the experience-sharing between these countries does enable the identification of similar problems and the exchange of the best practices in the fulfilment of tasks. At the same time, taking into account the earlier cooperation experience, we suggest that an accent in the next period would be given to research cooperation of the Eastern Partnership countries in various policy areas based on big data analysis (not public or expert opinion polls) as well as primary data collection and analyses.

## **12. SECURITY**

In 2018 and 2019, the State Bureau of Investigation officially commenced its work; the National Strategy for Integrated Border Management until 2025 was adopted; the National Money Laun-

dering and Terrorist Financing Risk Assessment Guidance was revised and updated. The draft Law "On Prevention and Counteraction to Legalization (Laundering) of Proceeds from Crime, Financing of Terrorism and Financing the Spread of Weapons of Mass Destruction" was adopted in the first reading (currently getting ready for the second reading). The draft law provides for a risk-based approach.

With regard to cybersecurity, Ukraine has implemented the Budapest Convention but still lacks a number of regulations, including the regulation on electronic evidence and the Electronic Communications Code, currently pending in Parliament. Coordination between national cybersecurity authorities, educational institutions and NGOs, in particular the Internet Association of Ukraine and the European structures, has been established and require improvement. In 2018, the cyber police of Ukraine participated in more than 30 different international operations. In July 2019, CEC cybersecurity training was conducted within the EU project.

Ukraine still has no regulatory framework for critical infrastructure protection in place. In May 2019, the Draft Critical Infrastructure Protection Bill was submitted to the Parliament, but it was returned for revision in August.

In September 2019, the international field exercise was carried out in Ukraine within the EU-funded EU-CHEM-REACT project, which aims to help Ukraine assess the performance of its new civil protection system and verify the capacity of the system to interact with the EU countries and agencies and in accordance with EU standards. The State Emergency Service of Ukraine exchanges information with the Monitoring and Information Centre of the EU Civil Protection Mechanism around the clock. Due to the successful implementation of the

PPRD East 2 Programme, Ukraine is now in its final stage of improving the Disaster Lost Data collection system by aligning the national legislation to the international standards. This will allow Ukraine to be ready for the implementation of Sendai Framework and gradually approximate its legislation to the EU Civil Protection Mechanism.

In 2018, the Armed Forces of Ukraine joined the formation of EU battle groups in the first half of 2018 and plan to join in the first half of 2020, which confirms the sustained engagement of Ukraine with EU combat units.

Some elements of the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) and Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) are partially included in the curricula of universities of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine. In particular, the National Academy of Internal Affairs is a member of the Association of European Police Colleges, and its 2018-2024 Strategic Development Plan includes enhanced cooperation with the European Commission and close coordination with the EUAM.

### ***Recommended priorities (for 2020):***

Attention should be drawn to Ukraine's fulfilment of the following tasks: improving the cybercrime legislation with regard to defining digital evidence and creating effective cybersecurity solutions for critical infrastructure protection; developing and implementing the Action Plan for the implementation of the National Integrated Border Management Strategy until 2025; including the CSDP/CFSP elements in the learning processes of Ukrainian universities, starting with defence universities with greater emphasis on the NATO.

### ***Suggestions for revising the Eastern Partnership policy:***

- Create a permanent EU-Ukraine platform to detect and counter hybrid threats and gradually extend it to other EaP countries.
- Include Ukraine in the Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO) projects, primarily cybersecurity projects, through participation in the Cyber Rapid Response Teams.

The European Union can gain added value by including Ukraine in its Rapid Alert System, which will allow Brussels to respond more effectively to information security threats from Russia.

# CONNECTIVITY, ENERGY EFFICIENCY, ENVIRONMENT

## 13. EXTENSION OF THE TEN-T CORE NETWORKS

Over the past year, Ukraine has continued the projects launched in previous years. Ukraine is actively implementing the Gdansk–Odessa GO-HIGHWAY project that was started in 2017. The Highway will link the Ukrainian Black Sea ports with the Polish and German Baltic ports. The first phase of the project is scheduled to complete in 2020. The Lviv–Uman transport section will be completed by the end of 2019.

Significant progress has been made in resolving the Romanian–Ukrainian dispute over the Danube. At an extraordinary meeting in February 2019, the Parties to the Espoo Convention acknowledged that Ukraine has fulfilled or is fulfilling all the requirements to dismiss the case of non-compliance with international environmental standards during the implementation of the Danube–Black Sea Deep Water Navigation Route on the Ukrainian territory. In particular, the preliminary decision on implementing the project in the Ukrainian delta area was revoked; consultations with Romania are being conducted; monitoring is being carried out; and the national legislation of Ukraine has been brought in line with the Espoo Convention requirements.

Ukraine is making every effort to improve road safety. The Ukraine Urban Road Safety Project started on September 18, 2019 under the international technical assistance programme of the

European Investment Bank. The Project aims to reduce road deaths and injuries by providing safer road infrastructure, better facilities for pedestrians and cyclists, and better access to public transport. In addition, the road safety project at national level is piloted in six regions of Ukraine with the support of the EU and the Bank. This project will provide intelligent traffic lights and lighting for pedestrian crossings and accident-prone areas.

### **Recommended priorities (for 2020):**



- Strengthen efforts to remove restrictions on Ukraine's air transport with the EaP countries (similar to the Agreement with Moldova signed in April 2018);
- Strengthen efforts to prepare investment projects included in the Indicative TEN-T Investment Action Plan. Ukraine has identified 39 infrastructure projects valued at EUR 4.5 billion and needs to develop feasibility studies to attract funding. Only two projects have been launched so far (the Lviv Bypass and the Kiev–Odessa Highway) funded by the loan of EUR 450 million from the European Investment Bank.

### **Suggestions for revising the Eastern Partnership policy:**

- The existing Eastern Partnership policy should be expanded to include environmental impact

analysis of the TEN-T Core Network infrastructure projects.

## 14. ENERGY SUPPLY

In 2018-2019, the implementation of projects within the EU energy priorities by 2020 did not keep up with the rapid geopolitical changes both in the world and in Europe. Even the progress in developing a regulatory framework for the energy sector of the EU's associated partners (Ukraine and Moldova) may be wound down because of the change in the ruling political coalitions in these countries.

During 2018-2019, EU4Energy actively worked with state institutions in Ukraine to implement the National Action Plan on Energy Sector Reform. This work included drafting laws and regulations, reviewing them by experts, upgrading skills of civil servants, and providing other technical and expert assistance. However, the deadlines for updating the projects of common interest of the parties to the Energy Community, and, accordingly, the connecting infrastructure in the gas and electric segments, no longer match up the geopolitical realities in the region of Eastern Europe and may lose their significance as of 2020.

Given the political crisis in Moldova, the delays in the implementation of the Ungheni-Chisinau natural gas pipeline project increase the risks to energy security, in particular, the reliability of gas supply during the winter of 2019/2020. However, Moldova shows no interest in entering into agreements with Ukraine, specifically on creating a reserve in gas storage facilities or on reverse supply from the EU. At the same time, Russia is dragging out the negotiations with Ukraine and the EU on the conclusion of a new transit agreement based on European legislation.

Risks to the Southern Gas Corridor to the EU have increased. These risks are associated with the policy of Russia, which actively promotes the second branch of the TurkStream pipeline through the territory of Bulgaria, as well as with the authoritarian tendencies of Recep Tayyip Erdoğan in Turkey. The concessions made by the EU in the case of the Nord Stream have set a precedent for Bulgaria, Hungary, and Austria to lobby more actively for Russia's new Black Sea gas pipeline, which reduces the economic appeal of TANAP/TAP projects.

Since the change of ruling political force in Ukraine, instances of amending legislation while skipping the procedure of consultation with the Energy Community have become more frequent. This puts certain integration goals in jeopardy, e.g., in the electric energy sector (integration with ENTSO-E) due to expanding cooperation with Russia and Belarus on electricity import.

### **Recommended priorities (for 2020):**



- Adopt a joint declaration of the states that have signed the Association Agreements and participate in the Energy Community, and other Eastern Partnership members by their consent, regarding compliance with EU legislation on free access to the cross-border energy infrastructure for all interested parties;
- On behalf of the European External Action Service, write and publicize a statement on the policy principles for protecting the Eastern Partnership Member States in response to a violation of their right to freely choose a supplier. The statement should also cover the issues of market prices, protection of critical infrastructure, and sanctions against violators;

- Hold a meeting between the EU and the Eastern Partnership Member States at the level of energy ministers in order to adopt a joint programme of actions for critical infrastructure protection, including financial, technical, and expert assistance from the EU.

**Suggestions for revising the Eastern Partnership policy:**

The geopolitical situation in Eastern Europe and the Caucasus requires urgent strengthening of the Eastern Partnership's security component and more active involvement of the EU in the protection of the critical infrastructure and economic interests of the programme's participants. Otherwise, the implementation of projects under the deliverable of energy supply security will be ruined, enhancing the domination of Russia as the main source of threats to the region's countries.

**15. ENERGY EFFICIENCY, USE OF RENEWABLE ENERGY, REDUCING GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS**

The Energy Efficiency Fund (EEF) and the reform of renewable energy support system (RES) have been Ukraine's greatest achievements. Ukraine is preparing a new nationally defined contribution and designing new approaches to integrated national energy and climate change plans.

The Energy Efficiency Fund (EEF) provides grant funding up to 40-70% of the project cost (depending on the activities and well-being of residents) for energy efficiency activities in apartment buildings. The Energy Efficiency Fund works exclusively with Homeowners Associations (HOAs), thus encouraging HOAs establishment and supporting housing and utilities reforms.

The state renewable energy support system has been reformed. Starting 1 January 2020, Ukraine launches the renewable auction system for selecting solar power plant projects with an installed capacity of less than 1 MW and 5 MW wind turbine projects. Small installations and other types of power generating facilities are still eligible for the green tariff. The reform is expected to speed up the pace of RES growth by reducing electricity costs through new installations.

**Recommended priorities (for 2020):**



- The national Government should cooperate with local governments to ensure demand for the EEF services, since the EEF potential may be left unchallenged due to the high loan cost;
- Introduce transparent and easy procedures for RES and green tariff quota allocation that would help to achieve the declared renewable energy target of at least 25% of final energy consumption in 2035;
- Create urban and biomass heat markets that comply with sustainability standards.

**Suggestions for revising the Eastern Partnership policy:**

- Harness the EE and RES potential of decentralized communities to strengthen their development by facilitating access to finance, improving public participation in policy making, and building national and international relations.



## 16. ENVIRONMENT AND ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE

The updated Environmental Strategy until 2030 was adopted by the Parliament of Ukraine in February 2019. It pays a significant attention to decoupling of economic growth and environmental degradation, and contains 30 assessment indicators. The water management system is shifting to a basin approach: 13 Basin Councils, 12 Basin management divisions and 15 regional water resources offices were established. A new water monitoring procedure is integrated into river basin management plans and the marine strategy development and assessment (adopted by CMU in September 2019). The National Waste Management Plan till 2030 was adopted in February 2019 to implement the National Waste Strategy (NWS), inter alia, in streamlining the process of legislation adaptation to EU Waste Directives. The Guidelines for Regional waste management plans preparation were adopted by the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources (MENR) in the spring 2019. According to NWS, adopted regional plans allow the financing from state and local public budgets.

In September 2019, the Ministry of Ecology was merged with the Ministry of Energy, while the environmental control function, after the liquidation of the Ecological Inspection in August 2019, is not being performed. That merge weakened environmental protection's institutional system further. There is still no clear plan of institutional reform in the environmental domain. The implementation capacity therefore remains low and unsustainable.

### **Recommended priorities (for 2020):**

- A clear plan of public administration reform in environmental protection sector should be demanded with separation of policy planning,

implementation, prevention and control functions among a ministry, agency and inspection.

- Environmental funds should be established based on partnership with DFIs, filled in by public revenue (the rate of environmental charges should be increased) and matched with contributions from international partners. Such funds should be governed in a transparent manner with participation of CSO representatives in the Board. The expenditures should be programmed and project-based.

### **EaP Policy improvement:**

To mainstream environment and climate change in the list of deliverables and establish relevant environmental targets for each deliverable, there is need to strengthen significantly the deliverable focusing on the environment and climate change. To prioritize the implementation rather than producing new laws, which important, but has no sense while institutions are inadequate and financing is minor. In this regard, a clear plan of public administration reform in the environmental protection sector should be demanded with separation of policy planning, implementation, prevention and control functions among a ministry, agency and inspection. Environmental funds should be established based on partnership with DFIs, filled in by public revenue (the rate of environmental charges should be increased) and matched with contributions from international partners. Such funds should be governed in a transparent manner with participation of CSO representatives in the Board. The expenditures should be programmed and project-based.

# MOBILITY AND PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE CONTACTS

## 17. VISA LIBERALIZATION AND MOBILITY PARTNERSHIPS

Ukraine celebrates two years since visa-free travel to the EU entered into force. Ukrainians have made 42.6 million trips to EU countries and over 3 million trips without visa. Travel models to the EU have changed.

Citizens of Ukraine get less and less use for short-stay visas to the EU. The demand for Schengen visas dropped 4 times in 2018, and this trend continues in 2019. Ukraine moved from the top three to 16th position in the ranking of visa applications. The number of cars crossing the busiest section of the Polish-Ukrainian border continues to decrease for a second successive year: 27% less in the first quarter of 2019 compared to the same period in 2018. The decrease has been fostered by the regulatory changes that addressed excise duties and taxes for used European cars and limited the number of goods transported across borders, and due to the development of air and railway connections that took some portion of the passenger traffic.

No sharp increase in entry refusals for Ukrainians can be observed this year, compared to 2018. The Polish-Ukrainian border accounts for the largest number of entry refusals.

Ukraine generally observes the criteria for visa suspension mechanism. However, it must respond to comments about entry refusals and illegal stay

in EU Member States. Both migration indicators show growth, which, however, is not high.

The Government of Ukraine has adopted the National Integrated Border Management Strategy and its Action Plan until 2025 in 2019.

### **Recommended priorities (for 2020):**

- Implement the Action Plan of the National Integrated Border Management Strategy;
- Create online smart-customs, including big-data analysis for automated risk management; introduce electronic queues;
- Implement joint border controls.

### **Suggestions for revising the Eastern Partnership policy:**

It is important to address increasing mobility imbalances: three EaP countries have a visa-free regime with the EU (Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine); Armenia joined the Visa Facilitation Agreement; and Azerbaijan and Belarus are negotiating visa facilitation. Public control over the sustainability of visa liberalization reforms should be strengthened.

## **18. YOUTH, EDUCATION, SKILLS DEVELOPMENT, AND CULTURE**

The quantitative targets under this deliverable are attained at a high level of success. Thanks to the current Erasmus+ programme, better integration of the Ukrainian youth into the international community is achieved, and inclusiveness and cooperation with the youth of Eastern Partnership countries are developed.

The youth unemployment rate in Ukraine grew from 18.99% in 2017 up to 19.61% in 2018 (according to data from the Statista portal) against a general reduction in unemployment in the country. The Ministry of Youth and Sports of Ukraine in collaboration with a number of agencies and with involvement of a broad circle of experts and international partners has developed a complex inter-institutional Youth Strategy 2030, which includes the issue of skills development, skills of the future in particular, to positively influence the formation of economic and financial stability for young people and their development.

Progress has been achieved in the implementation of Bologna Process requirements and policies on developing higher education standards and supporting its quality: the institutional formation of the National Agency for Higher Education Quality Assurance is complete (its secretariat and 29 expert groups formed, accreditation protocols developed, high-level representation of students ensured), which is a key lever for implementing the reform to ensure quality of higher education. In 2019, the Agency will start for the first time carrying out accreditation in full compliance with internationally accepted procedures and standards.

According to Ukraine's official statistics, there is a constant downward trend in the number of voca-

tional schools and their students and graduated in 2018-2019 as compared to previous years (taking into account the changes in the indicators due to excluding the territories temporarily occupied since 2014). In 2018, the number of entrants to vocational schools in Ukraine dropped by 9.5% as compared to 2017, whereas this indicator is just 3% for higher education institutions.

Owing to the active work of the National Bureau of the Creative Europe programme and support from the Ukrainian Cultural Foundation, the number of Ukrainian organizations participating in the competitions under this programme has increased significantly. According to the results of three competitions under the i-Portunus mobility programme in 2019, Ukraine is among the top-10 countries that have received mobility grants. The competition results under the International Cooperation Projects show positive dynamics either. Ukrainian organizations were also active in other programmes for international cultural cooperation. These include Culture Bridges and Creative Spark supported by the British Council in Ukraine. In general, such effective participation in various competitions has demonstrated an increase in the synergy between public and private participants in cultural processes.

The number of Ukrainian participants in projects of the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions as beneficiaries has significantly increased, too (109 projects as against 97 in September 2018, the budget for the Ukrainian organizations totalling €14,588,000, which accounts for 58% of the overall funding for Ukrainian organizations under Horizon 2020). In October 2019, the new Ministry of Education and Science team announced its intention to deregulate international scientific cooperation in order to remove most of the formal barriers.

### Recommended priorities (for 2020):



- Ensure preservation of the achieved successes and developed strategic directions in view of the transformations in the Government of Ukraine (reallocating the areas of responsibility among ministries and agencies)
- Strengthen the capacity of non-governmental actors (universities, institutes, NGOs, and associations) to participate successfully in international development and cooperation programmes. Special attention should be paid to increasing the capacity of Ukrainian organizations, especially universities, to enrol researchers participating in the Erasmus+ and Horizon 2020 programmes from EU countries and other countries for an internship;
- Improve synergy with innovation support and digital transformation programmes in order to widen the range of motivating factors for the development of two-way exchanges (i.e., not only from EaP countries to the EU but also vice versa) and introduce special grants for mini-projects of researchers who return to their EaP countries after internship in the EU so that they would be able to apply their newly-acquired knowledge and experience domestically;
- Pay more attention to the development of intersectoral and interdisciplinary cooperation in the area of culture;
- Support the application of digital and other advanced technologies in the area of culture, heritage in particular.

### Suggestions for revising the Eastern Partnership policy:

- Continue the existing programmes and initiatives in the areas of youth and education, ensuring equal access for people with special needs;
- Develop systemic and measurable effectiveness indicators (both qualitative and quantitative) taking into account contribution to the policy effectiveness from national and European institutions (EU institutions);
- Ensure the involvement of local governments in initiatives aimed, among other things, at developing young people's entrepreneurship and employability, youth participation;
- Support the process of joining Europe's Joint Programming Initiative on Cultural Heritage(<http://jpi-ch.eu/>);
- Ensure Ukraine's participation in the EU's new programme on Creative Europe after 2020;
- Support synergy with the innovation programmes of the EU to develop the creative industries sector in EaP countries.

## 19. EAP EUROPEAN SCHOOL

After its establishment and during 2018–2019, the EaP European School has been successfully teaching its students and supporting their participation in international activities under the aegis of the European Commission. The School enrolls annually 20 to 30 students aged 16 and 17 from all the EaP countries; currently it functions using the campuses

of other academic institutions. At the same time, a construction project has been launched to build the School's first autonomous campus, of which a pilot is the operating European School as Deliverable 19. Logistically, the School will be in Tbilisi, Georgia, near the Lisi lake, and it is scheduled to open its doors to the first enrolment of students in 2023.

### **Recommended priorities (for 2020):**

- Broaden the cooperation practice of the EaP European School with higher education institutions in the countries of the region, in particular, to spread its positive experience among stakeholders;
- Increase Ukraine's contribution to the implementation of this deliverable.

## **20. RESEARCH AND INNOVATION**

For most of the targets under this deliverable, Ukraine has been able to improve essentially its earlier results over the last year. The Ukrainian government has finally taken advantage of an important opportunity provided by participation in Horizon 2020, namely, nominated Ukraine's representatives and experts for its Programme Committees. The Ministry of Education and Science summarized the results of the peer-review of the country's research and innovation systems. These results were presented on 30 Jan. 2019 to Ukrainian and European experts at the final conference of RI-LINKS2UA, a project within the Horizon 2020 framework. In addition, the ministry has launched a process of joining European digital and research infrastructures.

The EaP PLUS project was completed on 31 Aug. 2019. Its final conference was held in Brussels on 14 June 2019. As one of its main outcomes, the project produced Recommendations for the EU-EaP

STI cooperation. An important result for Ukraine is the development of two innovation clusters, in Industry 4.0 and renewable energy.

### **Recommended priorities (for 2020):**

- Intensification of activities within the EU4Innovation Initiative framework;
- Use by Ukraine of the Horizon 2020 Policy Support Facility to receive specialized support in implementing the open science and open innovation approaches as well as developing international cooperation in the area of science, technology, and innovation;
- Support of universities and research institutions in using the access to European research infrastructures;
- Engagement of European experts in the assessment of progress in reforming Ukraine's science, technology, and innovation system.

### **Suggestions for revising the Eastern Partnership policy:**

- Provide special support tools for EaP countries to participate in Horizon Europe (2021-2027) and hold a coordinating meeting in 2020 on mechanisms for the transition of these countries from Horizon 2020 to Horizon Europe;
- Take into account the EaP PLUS STI policy recommendations "EU-EaP beyond 2020";
- Support the development of cooperation between EU and EaP innovation entities (clusters, technological platforms, associations, digital innovation hubs, etc.).

# ABBREVIATIONS

---

- AA – EU** – Ukraine Association Agreement
- ACAA** – Agreement on Conformity Assessment and Acceptance of Industrial Products
- AEOs** – Authorized Economic Operators
- ARMA** – Asset Recovery and Management Agency
- CERT** – Computer Emergency Response Team
- CFSP** – Common Foreign and Security Policy
- CSO** – civil society organization
- CMU** – Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine
- CSDP** – Common Security and Defence Policy
- DFCTA** – Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area
- EaP** – Eastern Partnership
- EaP CSF** – Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum
- EEF** – Energy Efficiency Fund
- EIB** – European Investment Bank
- ENP** – European Neighbourhood Policy
- EU** – European Union
- EUAM** – European Union Advisory Mission Ukraine
- HACC** – High Anti-Corruption Court of Ukraine
- HCJ** – High Council of Justice
- HOAs** – Homeowners Associations
- HQCJ** – High Qualification Commission of Judges
- MENR** – Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources
- MSMEs** – micro, small and medium-sized enterprises
- NABU** – National Anti-Corruption Bureau of Ukraine
- NACP** – National Agency on Corruption Prevention
- NBU** – National Bank of Ukraine
- NGO** – non-governmental organization
- NWS** – National Waste Strategy
- PESCO** – Permanent Structured Cooperation on Defence
- RES** – renewable energy support
- SAPO** – Specialized Anti-Corruption Prosecutor's Office
- SBI** – State Bureau of Investigation
- SMEs** – small and medium-sized enterprises
- TEN-T** – Trans-European Transport Network
- UNP EaP CSF** – Ukrainian National Platform of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum

# AUTHORS TEAM

---

## GENERAL EDITING:

---

**Hennadiy Maksak**, Foreign Policy Council “Ukrainian Prism”, UNP Country Facilitator 2017-2018  
(Foreword, General overview and recommendations)

**Olga Mashtaler**, Secretary of the EaP CSF Ukrainian National Platform

## AUTHORS:

---

**Andriy Chubyk**, Center for Global Studies “Strategy XXI”, UNP Working Group 3 (Deliverable 14)

**Anna Golubovska-Onisimova**, All-Ukrainian Environmental NGO MAMA-86, UNP Working Group 3  
(Deliverable 16)

**Mykhailo Zhernakov**, DEJURE Foundation, UNP Working Group 1 (Deliverable 10)

**Maksym Koryavets**, Polissya Foundation for International and Regional Studies, UNP Working Group 2  
(Deliverables 4 and 7)

**Iryna Kosse**, Institute for Economic Research and Policy Consulting, UNP Working Group 2 (Deliverable 13)

**Andriy Kulakov**, Internews Ukraine, UNP Working Group 1 (Deliverable 3)

**Ivan Kulchytskyy**, Agency of European Innovations, UNP Working Group 4 (Deliverables 18 and 20)

**Andriy Martynyuk**, Ecoclub, Working Group 3 (Deliverable 15)

**Vitaliy Martynyuk**, Centre for Global Studies “Strategy XXI”, UNP Working Group 1 (Deliverable 12)

**Veronika Movchan**, Institute for Economic Research and Policy Consulting, UNP Working Group 2  
(Deliverable 12)

**Yulia Savelieva**, Women Consortium of Ukraine, UNP Working Group 1 (Deliverable 2)

**Lesya Shevchenko**, NGO “Open Society Foundation”, UNP Working Group 1 (Deliverable 9)

**Iryna Sushko**, Europe without Barriers, UNP Working Group 1 (Deliverable 17)

**Mariia Symonova**, “Clean Universities” Anticorruption Campaign, UNP Working Group 4 (Deliverables 18 and 19)

**Yulia Tyshchenko**, Ukrainian Centre for Independent Political Research, UNP Working Group 1 (Deliverable 1)

**Yuriy Vdovenko**, Centre for Cross-Border Cooperation, UNP Working Group 2 (Deliverables 5 and 6)

**Oleksandr Zaslavskyy**, Laboratory for Legislative Initiatives, UNP Working Group 1 (Deliverable 11)

**TRANSLATION:** Oleksandr Zheleznyak, Alyona Khorol

---





Ukrainian National Platform  
of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum  
Kyiv, 12/10 Malopidvalna st., 01034  
Phone: (+38 044) 500 24 87  
<http://eap-csf.org.ua/>