

**WORK PROGRAMME – PLATFORM 1 (2018-2019)**



The Brussels Summit adopted the **revised Eastern Partnership multilateral architecture** to contribute to the goals of the Eastern Partnership, particularly by supporting the **implementation of the "20 Deliverables for 2020"** as endorsed by the **2017 Eastern Partnership Summit Declaration**. The revised architecture will take into account the relevant provisions of the EU **Global Strategy** and of the reviewed **European Neighbourhood Policy**, as well as the key global policy goals set by the **Sustainable Development Goals** of the UN 2030 Agenda, the Paris Climate Agreement and the European Consensus on Development.

The revised architecture aims to refine the process of consulting, steering and enabling policy implementation in order to jointly and effectively work towards reaching the "20 Deliverables for 2020". The revised architecture facilitates closer inter-Platform/Panel cooperation, enhanced engagement with relevant stakeholders and strategic, result-oriented activities. The priorities of the Eastern Partnership regional and bilateral multiannual programming documents will also be reflected in order to improve the **link between policy dialogue and financial assistance**.

**Overall objectives and role of the Platforms**

The Eastern Partnership **Platforms** correspond to the four key priorities for cooperation:

- Economic development and market opportunities;
- Strengthening Institutions and good governance;
- Connectivity, energy efficiency, environment and climate change;
- Mobility and people-to-people contacts.

The Platforms are tasked with **ensuring and monitoring progress** of the implementation of the "20 Deliverables for 2020", while **exploring synergies and cross-fertilisation** across the architecture to effectively support comprehensive reforms. In this context, while Panels advance the work at technical level under each of the "20 Deliverables", the Platforms steer and monitor them, notably with a view of reporting to the Foreign Affairs Ministerial, with the active engagement of the Senior Officials Meetings. Each Platform will approve a **yearly report** on the basis of inputs from the Panels, including political messages to feed high-level political discussions such as sectoral Ministerial meetings, Informal Partnership Dialogues and, ultimately, the Foreign Affairs Ministerial.

This Work Programme translates the objectives of the revised architecture and the "20 Deliverables for 2020" document into **concrete steps for delivering results**. The work of the Platform and the Panels will be in line with the objectives pursued through the cross-cutting Deliverables on civil society, gender equality and strategic communication. Expert Working Groups will provide relevant input to the Panels and Platforms as appropriate, including on horizontal topics such as statistics.

**Communication** will be mainstreamed in all the activities of the Platform, Panels and Expert Working Groups to ensure results focus on delivering tangible benefits to the lives of citizens in the region. All communication should also be in the framework of the priority area of cooperation to ensure a comprehensive communication approach.

The Platform will strive to ensure **ownership, engagement and exchanges** with relevant stakeholders in Partner Countries and EU Member States at all levels: Ministers, representatives of the national Parliaments through EURONEST, local and regional authorities through CORLEAP, civil society organisations through the Civil Society Forum, International Financial Institutions, business representatives as well as experts and specialised organisations when relevant.

## PLATFORM 1 – Strengthening institutions and good governance

### Core objectives

The overall purpose of this Platform is the improved functioning of institutions and good governance, with the aim of strengthening the rule of law and democracy, in respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. In doing so, activities under this Platform will also contribute to human security, which encompasses not only safety from external and internal threats, but also growing prosperity and living in a genuinely participatory democracy and inclusive society. This Work Programme translates the objectives of the "20 Deliverables for 2020" into **concrete steps for delivery**. In particular, the core objectives of Platform 1 reflect the following Deliverables:

- Strengthen Partner Countries' **rule of law and anti-corruption** mechanisms;
- Support the implementation of key **judicial reforms** in Partner Countries;
- Contribute to the implementation of **public administration reforms** in Partner Countries;
- Foster cooperation between the EU and Partner Countries in the areas of **security and disaster risk management**.

### Main goals and actions

While good progress has been made on the Milestones for 2017 related to Deliverables 9 to 12, challenges remain, notably, in increasing effective execution of reforms. Hence, a strategic and target-oriented approach is needed in order to build productively on the current achievements in this priority area.

In this context, in 2018 and 2019 the work of Platform 1 will mainly focus on:

- Contribution of Deliverables 9 to 12 to strengthening of **resilience** of the Partner Countries, as foreseen in the relevant sections of the EU Global Strategy;

- Overall progress in the establishment of the legal framework necessary for the implementation of reforms in the area of **Rule of Law and justice** (e.g. asset declaration in place; implementation of GRECO recommendations; anti-corruption bodies in place);
- Ensuring the alignment of Strategies in the area of **Public Administration Reform** with the Principles of Public Administration across the region;
- Enhancing **security** (e.g. Computer Emergency Response Teams - CERTS in place and linked with EU CERTS; development of strategies; enhanced public private coordination; Capacity building of Emergency Management Services related to the disaster risk management);
- Ensuring implementation of **cross-cutting Deliverables** on gender (e.g. legislation on gender based violence, anti-discrimination and ratification of Istanbul convention), communication and media, and/or civil society.

In order to ensure **cross-sectoriality** among the Deliverables under the Strengthening Institutions and Good Governance sector and across the four Eastern Partnership key priorities, Platform 1 will also **explore synergies** with the other Platforms whenever needed or useful, namely when dealing with cross-sectorial topics.

**Sectoral Ministerial meetings** may be recommended, when Ministerial level intervention would help to strengthen the implementation of the objectives pursued.

#### **Panel on Rule of Law**

The Panel on Rule of Law will contribute to the implementation of **Deliverables 9 and 10**, leading the technical discussion on **rule of law, anti-corruption and judicial reforms**. In 2018 and 2019 the Panel will mainly focus on the following:

- Enhancing the capacity of Partners Countries to recover **criminal assets**;
- Combatting **organized crime** activities;
- Strengthening the capacity of Partner Countries' **Prosecutors**.
- Improving the independence of the judiciary;

Further technical support can be provided through Experts Working Groups, e.g. on judicial cooperation instruments, e-procurement as an anti-corruption measure and cybercrime, including the legal regulation of the crypto-market.

To achieve the above the following **activities** are planned:

#### 2018

Panel on Rule of Law to meet twice, with a particular focus on:

- Strengthening **tools for financial investigations** (access to centralised bank account registries and beneficial ownership registries) in order to trace, freeze and confiscate criminal assets (linked to targets 3-4 under Deliverable 9);

- **Reforms of prosecution service**, including composition of prosecutorial councils, specialised anti-corruption prosecutors, autonomy of prosecutors, appointment and disciplinary proceedings, evaluation and promotion, relation to police and courts, and discretion to dismiss cases;

## 2019

Panel on Rule of Law to meet two/three times, with a particular focus on:

- **Asset declaration** systems (linked to target 1 under Deliverable 9);
- Fight against **organised crime** (to be seen in the context of a potential TAIEX regional meeting on Cybercrime in the second half of 2018 linked to the new regional programme);
- A possible third meeting could deal with strengthening judiciary.

## **Panel on Governance and Public Administration Reform**

The Panel on Governance and Public Administration Reform will contribute to the implementation of **Deliverable 11**, leading the technical discussion on how to help Partner Countries establish **professional, depoliticised, accountable and ethical public administrations**. In order to strengthen shared ownership, the Panel will support and guide initiatives taken by the Member States and Partner Countries for focussed discussions, workshops and trainings in support of the implementation of the core principles of the Public Administration Reform. In 2018 and 2019 the Panel will mainly focus on the following:

- Establishment of the strategic framework in the field of **Public Administration Reform**;
- Improve **service delivery**;
- Continue implementation of **civil service reforms**.

To achieve the above the following **activities** are planned:

## 2018

Panel on Governance and Public Administration Reform to meet twice, with a particular focus on:

- **Management of a strategic planning process** (linked to the 4<sup>th</sup> 2020 target under the Public Administration Reform Deliverable) – first meeting;
- **Better services to citizens and businesses through simplification of administrative procedures and rationalisation of public administration** (linked to the 3<sup>rd</sup> 2020 target under the Public Administration Reform Deliverable) – second meeting.

Experts Working Group to be set up to further explore some key issues identified in the Panel meetings (e.g. proliferation of agencies without clear accountability lines and/or out of the scope of the CSL, ensuring gender equality in the civil service)

## 2019

Panel on Governance and Public Administration Reform to meet twice, with a particular focus on:

- Results and challenges with **implementation of the Civil Service Reforms** (linked to the 2<sup>nd</sup> 2020 target under the Public Administration Reform Deliverable) – first meeting;
- **Evidence-based policy making, monitoring and evaluation** (linked to the 5<sup>th</sup> 2020 target under the Public Administration Reform Deliverable) – second meeting.

Experts Working Groups to be set up to further explore some of the key issues identified in the Panel meetings. The use of statistics and administrative data in policy design, monitoring and reporting in a specific sector could be, for example, one of the topics to be further discussed in 2019. Involvement of Ministries of Finance in the Panel work is necessary to ensure a whole government approach. Specific line ministries should also on a case-by-case basis be invited to attend an event to promote the understanding that public administration reform needs to be implemented at sector level.

### **Panel on Security, CSDP and Civil protection**

The Panel on Security, CSDP and Civil protection will contribute to the implementation of **Deliverable 12**, leading the technical discussion on how to build Partner Countries' **resilience to security threats, including hybrid threats, and to disasters**. In 2018 and 2019 the Panel will mainly focus on the following:

- Cooperation of Partner Countries in **CSDP** missions and operations;
- Enhance Partner Countries' capacity in the field of CSDP/CFSP, in particular on **cybersecurity, conflict analysis** and **strategic communication**;
- Establish closer working relationships between Partner Countries and the **EU Civil Protection Mechanisms**.

To achieve the above the following **activities** are planned:

#### 2018

The Panel on Security, CSDP and Civil protection will meet twice per year, with a particular focus on:

- Update on the implementation of the **EU Global Strategy on Foreign and Security Policy** in the field of defence, to discuss developments in the field of CFSP/CSDP policy, security sector reform, capacity building to enhance Partner Countries' resilience, ways of enhancing the participation of Partners in CSDP missions and operations and civil protection policies;
- Provide generic **courses/conferences on the Common Security and Defence Policy** of the European Union in the wider context of the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP);
- Specific workshops on **strategic communication, gender issues, conflict analysis and participation in CSDP missions and operations** will be carried out;
- In the field of **Civil Protection, an Annual regional meeting** with programme coordinators under the PPRD East Programme, the flagship initiative on civil protection and disaster risk management, will take place on 22 February 2018 in Kiev. **The European Civil Protection Forum** on fostering resilience in the Neighbourhood will take place on 5-6 March 2018 in Brussels;
- Enhancement of **training initiatives**, including through eLearning, with a focus on CFSP/CSDP and civil protection.

2019

The Panel on Security, CSDP and Civil protection will meet twice per year, with a particular focus on:

- The developments in the field of **CFSP/CSDP policy**, security sector reform, progress in the capacity building projects to enhance **Partner Countries' resilience to hybrid threats**, progress in the establishment of **Computer Emergency Response teams (CERTs)** and cybersecurity strategies;
- Capacity building of Emergency Management Services related to the disaster risk management
- Provide **generic courses/conferences on the Common Security and Defence Policy** of the European Union in the wider context of the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP);
- Specific workshops on **cyber security, hybrid threat and strategic communication**
- In the field of participation in **CSDP missions and operations**, the Panel will address the **conceptual and technical interoperability** of Partner Country's units with the EU;
- Progress in **streamlining CSDP/CFSP elements in curricula of national training and education institutions**, such as Defence universities/colleges, police and diplomatic academies, universities;
- Workshops on **critical infrastructure, CBRN** in connection with other threats;
- Enhancement of **training initiatives**, including through eLearning, with a focus on CFSP/CSDP and civil protection.

Within the core objectives of the four Platforms, the **Work Programme can be reviewed and adapted**, as appropriate, on the occasion on future Platform meetings.

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