



Platform 1 "Democracy, Good Governance and Stability"

CORE OBJECTIVES AND WORK PROGRAMME 2014-2017¹

The Work Programme (2014-2017) contributes to the goals of the Eastern Partnership, notably in the area of further political association and is guided by the principle of joint ownership. This Work Programme supports inter alia the objectives agreed in bilateral Action Plans or Association Agendas. This Work Programme also reflects the priorities of the ENI Regional East multiannual indicative programme (2014-2017). These reform efforts also serve to strengthen implementation of commitments made under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

In order to ensure better coherence, planning and implementation of the Work Programme with the ENI Regional East indicative programme, its validity will run from 2014-2017 with a mid-term review after 2 years. Cooperation of EU Member States and partner countries in various expert Panels based inter alia on their experience and best practices as well as national priorities forms an important element of this Work Programme. In this regard, Platform participants agree to continue providing the necessary expertise and cooperate closely on their activities including through financial support, where appropriate.

On the basis of activities carried out under the Work Programme, experience thus gathered, and of new proposals, within the core objectives of the Platform, the Work Programme can be reviewed and adapted, as appropriate, on the occasion of future Platform meetings. Initiatives of the Platform should include close cooperation with relevant EU agencies.

The Work Programme of Platform 1 is guided by the joint declarations of the Eastern Partnership Summits to date and takes into account the revised ENP, which emphasizes the principle of differentiated relations within the Eastern Partnership, while maintaining an inclusive framework open to all partners. The Work Programme shall seek to exploit synergies between the different multilateral Platforms and contribute to enhancing the communication of the Eastern Partnership, in line with the Riga Eastern Partnership Declaration. The implementation of the Work Programme requires an active cooperation between EU institutions, Member States and partner countries, and is altogether a common responsibility of all Platform 1 participants.

The objectives of the Work Programme will be supported by strategic communications activities which will be part of the agenda of Platform 1 meetings.

¹ Text resulting from the mid-term review process

Taking this into account,, the participants of Eastern Partnership Platform 1 adopt the following core objectives and Work Programme for 2014-17 in accordance with the General Guidelines and Rules of Procedure of the Eastern Partnership Multilateral Platforms.

CORE OBJECTIVES:

The core objectives will be pursued in particular through the expert panels, Flagship initiatives and related cooperation projects as well as through cooperation with European Parliament (EP), Committee of the Regions (CoR), Council of Europe (CoE), OSCE, OECD or any international organisation supporting the objectives of the Eastern Partnership.

The revised European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) of November 2015² and the Council Conclusions of December 2015; as well as bilateral Action Plans or Association Agendas confirm that the reforms in the following areas should continue to be of common interest to the Platform participants:

Democratic Governance

- Supporting reforms in the areas of electoral standards, freedom of expression, National Human Rights Institutions, children's rights, gender equality, prevention and fight against corruption, transparent management of public goods, and public administration reform.
- Training and networking of local authorities, with a view to strengthening administrative capacities of local authorities and promoting local government reform and decentralisation. This will be carried out in cooperation with the Committee of the Regions under the Conference for Regional and Local Authorities of the Eastern Partnership (CORLEAP).
- Conducting, where possible, peer reviews in relevant reform areas, modelled on existing the Commission's cooperation with the OECD under SIGMA.

Justice and Home Affairs

- Supporting partners' efforts to establish integrated border management systems, including cooperation on border control, border demarcation, combating cross-border crime, trade facilitation (in the frame of integrated border management) and fostering mobility of people.
- Where appropriate, supporting convergence to European standards and draw on best practices from the EU acquis. EU encourages partner countries to assess the benefits of establishing shared border crossing points.
- Pursuing dialogue and cooperation in the framework of the Global Approach to Migration and Mobility (GAMM).
- Encouraging exchanges of views, best practices, training and networking of experts on mobility, including conditions for secure and well-managed mobility, bearing in mind the goal

² Joint Communication to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions – Review of the European Neighbourhood Policy, JOIN(2015) 50 final, 18.11.2015

of visa-free travel in due course, based on satisfactory implementation of the visa facilitation and readmission agreements as a first step. Where applicable, draw on synergies provided by the projects and experience gathered through the Mobility Partnerships.

- Supporting partners' efforts to strengthen asylum and migration systems and continue the dialogue on all issues covered by the GAMM between the Eastern partners and the EU, as well as among the Eastern partners themselves.
- Multilateral cooperation in the justice sector with focus on reform of the judiciary, including further work towards independent and efficient judiciary, judicial cooperation and data protection.
- Cooperation in the field of police reform and specific fields of law enforcement, combating organised crime, including drug crime, coordinated drugs strategies, cybercrime, trafficking in human beings. and strengthening customs administrations.

Security and Stability

- Address the destabilising impact of emergencies and crises, and foster societal resilience, building up prevention, mitigation and preparedness capacities, also through close partnerships with the EU Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM)..
- Facilitating the capacity of Civil Society Organisations, including the CSF for advocacy and promoting confidence building in the field of conflict settlement.
- Cooperation on specific CFSP and CSDP issues, dialogue on CSDP developments, including facilitating participation of interested partner countries in CSDP EU led missions and operations. Furthering involvement of partner countries in CSDP consultations, training and exercises, experience sharing and cooperation in the area of security sector reform.
- Enhance cooperation with interested partners on security sector reform (SSR – also related to aspects of Justice and Home Affairs).

WORK PROGRAMME 2014-2017

Based on the core objectives, the participants of Platform 1 agree to focus on the following priority areas during the period 2014-2017 with a mid-term review:

Democratic Governance

Activity 1: Democracy and Human Rights

Specific area: Cooperation between Ombudsmen, strengthening the respect and implementation of European human rights standards, including children's rights and gender equality and promotion of human rights advocacy.

Means of implementation: Projects of EU Member States and support to them.

Objectives:

- Contribute to the HR objectives of the bilateral Action Plans or Association Agendas by strengthening ombudsman institutions in EaP countries in order to improve their ability to contribute to the establishment of deep and sustainable democracy.
- Promote best European standards and exchange of views on best practices regarding children's rights and gender equality.
- Advocate the best practices applied by the ombudsman institutions in EaP countries in the field of protection of human rights.

Targets to be achieved:

- Enhance ombudsman institutions in EaP countries, encourage citizens of EaP countries to avail of their civic rights to use the institution.
- Legislation and implementation are in conformity with European Human Rights standards, including with regard to children's rights and gender equality.
- Increase the effectiveness of the ombudsman institutions in EaP countries.
- Determine cooperation areas in line with sustainable development goals.

Activity 2: Public Administration Reform

Means of implementation: Panel on Public Administration reform and activities of EU Member States

Objectives:

- 1) General support to implementation of reforms agreed in bilateral Action Plans or Association Agendas through contributing to establishment of a professional, depoliticised, accountable and ethical public service.
- 2) Fostering approximation to international good governance standards and contributing to increased efficiency of the public administration and policy making process by:
 - Promoting the new PAR reference framework and the Principles of Public Administration in the ENP countries, and exchanging good practices at meetings of the Panel and expert seminars.
 - Boosting the administrative capacity of regional and local authorities, inter alia by organising specific training courses.
 - Promoting local government reform
 - Promoting E-governance

Targets to be achieved:

- More efficient, responsible, transparent, accountable and inclusive public administration at central and local government level.
- Improved efficiency in policy development and implementation of public administration legislation,
- Improved quality and accessibility of public services

- Greater ability to absorb effectively EU assistance (due to a well-functioning central administration),
- Improved prevention of corruption and promotion of integrity in the public service
- Increased administrative capacity of regional and local authorities and more effective policy making at regional and local level.

Activity 3: Fight against corruption

Means of implementation: Panel on Rule of Law cooperation with the CoE.

Objectives:

- 1) Support the implementation of bilateral objectives from the Action Plans or Association Agendas, including the relevant recommendations of the Council of Europe Group of States against Corruption (GRECO), the European Commission recommendations in the context of visa liberalization dialogues (where applicable), the recommendations of the review mechanism of the UN Convention against Corruption (where applicable), as well as other relevant anti-corruption monitoring mechanisms.
- 2) Promote good governance including open government and boost the capacity of public administration and the criminal justice sector to prevent and fight corruption and economic crime.
- 3) Review existing systems to prevent and fight corruption in EaP countries (legislative, policy and institutional framework, including enforcement structures) and share good practice with a view to increasing overall efficiency in reducing corruption.
- 4) Improve the skills of civil servants, civil society organisations and businesses dealing with anti-corruption issues.
- 5) Strengthen the cooperation between public authorities (at both central and local level), civil society organisations and the private sector in relation to the development, implementation and monitoring of effective anti-corruption policies.

Targets to be achieved:

- Efficient implementation of European and international standards on good governance and prevention of and fight against corruption in EaP countries.
- Sufficient capacity of public authorities (central and local levels), civil society organisations and businesses to monitor and implement effective anti-corruption policies and to prevent, monitor and fight economic crime.

Activity 4: Electoral standards

Means of implementation: cooperation with the CoE, projects of EU Member States.

Objectives:

Continuing to strengthen the objectives under the bilateral Action Plans or Association Agendas, notably regarding the respect for the democratic electoral standards based on recommendations of CoE's Venice Commission and OSCE/ODHIR.

Targets to be achieved:

Contribution to improved compliance with and awareness of European electoral standards in the EaP countries.

Justice and Home Affairs

Activity 5: Integrated Border Management

Means of implementation: Panel on Integrated Border Management, Flagship Initiative on Integrated Border management.

Objectives:

- 1) Contributes to bilateral reform benchmarks agreed in the bilateral Action Plans or Association Agendas, in particular to implementation of bilateral Mobility Partnerships and Visa Liberalisation Action Plans where applicable.
- 2) Stepping up operational cooperation, trainings and exchange of best practice between border police and customs services in EaP countries, EU MS, EU agencies and international stakeholders on border-related issues. Expanding cooperation among Eastern Partners by drawing on regional cooperation models supported by EU expertise, as in the case of the EUBAM model and the EU-funded Frontex-led Eastern Partnership IBM Capacity Building Project.
- 3) Support to the establishment of the advanced training systems on specific issues in the EaP countries by boosting the training capacity of the partner countries' institutions and their ability to provide training for border and customs services.
- 4) Coordination with the Eastern Partnership Transport Panel on transport links with TEN-T.
- 5) Financial support to the implementation of IBM projects on the ground
- 6) Promoting the respect for human rights when securing the borders.

Targets to be achieved:

- Contribution to better coordination between border police and customs services from EaP countries and EU member states as well as EU agencies in order to increase operational cooperation, which will contribute to increasing security at borders of EaP countries, streamlining the flow of people and goods and enhancing the effectiveness of border management in EaP countries. Introduce modern practices for prevention and fights against corruption at border and customs services.
- Improved security by enhancing the capabilities of relevant services to fight cross-border organised crime, in particular as regards human trafficking, migrant smuggling, drug trafficking and smuggling of goods;
- Contribution to increased operational capacity of border and customs services through the provision of training courses.
- Increased training capacities of the respective EaP institutions.

- Enhancing the infrastructural, logistical and procedural/organizational capacities of the border and customs services, aimed at facilitating the flow of people and goods, in line with the IBM concept.

Activity 6: Improved functioning of the Judiciary

Means of implementation: Panel on Rule of Law, cooperation with the CoE.

Objectives:

- 1) Contribute to bilateral reform benchmarks agreed in the bilateral Action Plans or Association Agendas.
- 2) Facilitate exchanges of information and best practice in the field of judiciary with a view to promoting adherence to European standards. In this sense, continue cooperation between partner countries' institutions and relevant EU agencies and networks in the area of justice and home affairs.
- 3) Share experience in reforming the judiciary in line with European standards. Particular attention will be paid to issues such as independence, integrity of the judiciary (ethics code, immunities, accountability, disciplinary measures), training on human rights, reform of prosecution.
- 4) Foster implementation of a coherent sector-wide reform.
- 5) Encourage EaP countries to introduce European law-inspired tools into their legislation including support for the application of ICT in court system.
- 6) Support partners' efforts to ensure personal data protection in line with European standards.

Targets to be achieved:

- Ensure that all judicial systems meet the European standards in order to achieve an independent, efficient, impartial, accountable and effective judiciary and equal access to justice.
- Identified obstacles to implementing European standards on judicial reform and develop recommendations to address these obstacles.

Activity 7: Asylum and Migration

Means of implementation: Panel on Asylum and Migration

Objectives:

- 1) Contributing to meeting the agreed reforms in bilateral Action Plans and Association Agendas.
- 2) Assist the effective implementation of readmission and visa facilitation agreements, where applicable.
- 3) Pursuing dialogue and cooperation in the framework of the Global Approach to Migration and Mobility (GAMM), the European Agenda for Migration and in line with the objectives of the reviewed ENP and relevant Eastern Partnership declarations. Facilitating the approximation of standards by stepping up dialogue and exchanging best practice, including those relevant for visa-free movement and Visa Liberalization Action Plans between the relevant authorities in EaP countries, EU MS and international stakeholders.

Targets to be achieved:

- Improved asylum and migration systems of EaP countries, in line with best practices and European and international standards.
- Reduced risk of irregular migration flows.

Activity 8: Fight against cybercrime

Means of implementation: Panel on Rule of Law, cooperation with the CoE, Eastern Partnership Police Cooperation Programme.

Objectives:

- 1) Support the reform process in EaP countries by facilitating approximation to EU and CoE standards based on Budapest Convention.
- 2) Boost the capacity of criminal justice authorities to cooperate effectively against cybercrime by assisting EaP countries in defining strategic priorities regarding cybercrime and developing tools for action against cybercrime.

Targets to be achieved:

- Contribution to strengthening EaP countries' capacity to implement action against cybercrime.
- Strategic priorities regarding cybercrime are defined.
- Presentation of the Cybercrime Situation Report.
- Increased participation of EaP countries in international cybercrime work.

Activity 9: Cooperation among law enforcement agencies

Means of implementation: Eastern Partnership Police programme, Panel on Integrated Border management, Panel on Rule of Law.

Objectives:

- 1) Promote and enable the transfer of European standards for cooperation among law enforcement agencies in EaP countries. Help introduce operationally modern investigation tools such as Joint Investigation Teams. Encourage the creation of common databases and criteria for registering crimes.
- 2) Step up police cooperation on Eastern Partnership's priorities, notably organised crime, drugs, trafficking in human beings, migrant smuggling, weapons trafficking, money laundering and high-level corruption also in line with the objectives agreed in bilateral Action Plans, Association Agendas, Visa Liberalization Action Plans and Mobility Partnership Declarations.
- 3) Strengthen cooperation on counter-terrorism and anti-radicalisation policies.
- 4) Establish a cooperation network among law enforcement agencies from EU MS and EaP countries, as well as with EU agencies.

5) Support partners' efforts to ensure personal data protection in the area of law enforcement activities in line with European standards.

Targets to be achieved:

- Increased practical cooperation between EU police, including Europol, Eurojust and EaP law enforcement agencies.
- Increased knowledge and exchange of good practice among partner agencies.
- Increased effectiveness of EaP police, in particular on cross-border criminal investigations in conjunction with respective border and customs agencies.
- Consolidated capacities for risk assessment in law enforcement agencies in different sectors of the home affairs field, such as integrated border management, migration and asylum, law enforcement cooperation, money laundering, fighting organised and cybercrime.

Security and Stability

Activity 10: Prevention of, preparedness for, and response to natural and man-made disasters

Means of implementation: Regional Flagship Initiative on Prevention, Preparedness and Response to natural and man-made Disasters (PPRD East) and Partnerships with the EU Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM).

Objectives:

- 1) Develop partner countries' disaster risk management capacity.
- 2) Bring partner countries closer to the EU Civil Protection Mechanism.

Targets to be achieved:

- Accomplish to the objectives of the Sendai framework on disaster risk reduction improving the knowledge base on disaster risks, strengthening disaster risk governance, promoting investments in disaster risk reduction and resilient re/construction, enhancing disaster preparedness and regional & international cooperation.
- Develop a risk-based approach to disaster management, through the development of national risk assessments and cross-sectorial/multiple-threats mapping, disaster risk management planning, and assessing the national risk management capabilities.
- Contribute to the legislative approximation (or equivalence, for those countries not interested in the EU aquis) on all sectors contributing to disaster risk management, and improve the administrative and operational capacities for disaster risk prevention, preparedness and response based, among others, on the gap analysis done in 2013 and 2016.
- Establish Partnership agreements with the UCPM or agree on procedures for the activation of the UCPM in the event of a major disaster.

Activity 11: Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) and Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) cooperation

Means of implementation: Panel on CSDP, training activities and studies carried out for the Eastern Partnership in the area of CSDP.

Objectives:

- 1) Dialogue on political and practical aspects of participation by interested partner countries in EU CSDP missions and operations, experience sharing and lessons-learned on engagement in international crisis management and peacekeeping activities, and development of national capabilities for those purposes, as well as on overall security sector reforms.
- 2) Facilitating implementation of the bilateral Framework Participation Agreements.
- 3) Supports the agreed objectives set out in the bilateral Action Plans or Association Agendas.

Targets to be achieved:

- Enhanced cooperation on international security issues, CFSP and CSDP in line with the Work Plan of the Panel on CSDP the objectives set out in the reviewed ENP and relevant Eastern Partnership declarations.
- Increased preparedness and participation for potential participation in EU CSDP missions and operations (through establishing legal framework - FPAs, through dialogue and training activities).
- Increased involvement of the interested EaP countries in the EU CSDP missions and operations.
- Improved situation in the Security Sector of the EaP countries based on good governance and the support provided by the EU on a bilateral level (e.g. training and advisory support on capacity building in areas such as Chemical Bacteriological Radiological and Nuclear – CBRN defence).

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