UKRAINIAN NATIONAL PLATFORM
OF THE EASTERN PARTNERSHIP
CIVIL SOCIETY FORUM

UKRAINE IN THE COORDINATES
OF THE EASTERN PARTNERSHIP
2017-2020

EXPERT REVIEW OF THE JOINT STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT ON
Eastern Partnership – 20 Deliverables for 2020
Focusing on Key Priorities and Tangible Results

UKRAINIAN NATIONAL PLATFORM OF THE
EASTERN PARTNERSHIP
Civic Society Forum

Civic
Synergy

INTERNATIONAL
Renaissance
FOUNDATION

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WORKING DOCUMENT ON
Eastern Partnership – 20 Deliverables for 2020
Focusing on Key Priorities and Tangible Results**

*This study was conducted by experts of the Ukrainian National Platform
of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum
(Edited by Hennadiy Maksak and Olha Mashtaler,
translated by Oleksandr Zheleznyak)*

2017

UKRAINIAN NATIONAL PLATFORM OF THE EASTERN PARTNERSHIP CIVIL SOCIETY FORUM

The Ukrainian National Platform is a network of more than 200 NGOs promoting the interests of Ukrainian society within the Eastern Partnership Initiative. The platform operates within the framework of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum, a multinational association of civil society organizations from the Eastern Partnership countries and EU member states as well as European and international networks.

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.

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INTRODUCTION

The Eastern Partnership (EaP), as an EU policy aimed at developing relations with neighboring countries in the region of Eastern Europe and Southern Caucasus, has undergone a number of significant transformations since its initiation at the Prague EaP Summit in 2009. Nevertheless, all these changes could not conceal what was felt as incomplete understanding between the EU and Partner Countries, insufficient political will to solve, and focus on, major problems in EU neighboring countries, and the considerable presence of Russia as the third party, informal but excessively influential. The revision of the European Neighborhood Policy, of which the Eastern Partnership is a component, in 2015 in part attempted to find ways to configure relations with third countries.

The Joint Staff Working Document on «Eastern Partnership – 20 Deliverables for 2020: Focusing on Key Priorities and Tangible Results», drafted in the EU in December 2016 and updated in June 2017, offers one more attempt to set development vectors based on a real reform progress and democratic transformations reached with EU support in the Partner Countries. The value of this medium-term program is that the deliverables the document suggests are based on four key priorities areas agreed upon two years ago at the Riga EaP Summit and stated in its Joint Declaration. This is an indication of the efforts made by European institutions to ensure the sustainability of EaP strategic directions, while making the assistance, as well as expectations, more profound and specific in their forms.

Experts of the Ukrainian National Platform of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum (UNP EaP CSF) under the auspices of the Civic Synergy project have thoroughly analyzed the Joint Staff Working Document's deliverables in the light of interests of the Ukrainian society and state. Each of the 20 deliverables was scrutinized to estimate how much real it is for Ukraine to meet their milestones by the November 2017 EaP Summit, as well as how much ambitious and achievable are the ultimate targets by 2020.

On the basis of the expert review findings, UNP members identified existing and potential barriers on the way to these goals, and suggested more accurate wording for the milestones by 2017 Summit and the targets by 2020. They also defined additional goals within the EaP policy framework, which had not been included in the document but are important for both Ukraine and other Partner Countries.

The UNP EaP CSF has an intention to generate a maximum practical value for the document as a joint action plan until 2020, according to which European institutions, on the one hand, and both governmental and nongovernmental actors in EaP and EU countries, on the other hand, will be ready to form an area of economic development and stability. Symbolically, the study per se is in line with the objectives of the Joint Staff Working Document, since it intends to strengthen the role of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum and its national platforms in decision making.

We hope that our proposals and recommendations will help add the value and ambition to the Eastern Partnership, and make our society and state more resistant to both external threats and difficulties of internal democratic transformations.

Hennadiy Maksak,
Country Facilitator of the Ukrainian National Platform
of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum,
Chairman of the Foreign Policy Council «Ukrainian Prism»

METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY

The Joint Staff Working Document on 20 deliverables for 2020 focuses on achieving tangible results by the Eastern Partnership policy in four key priority areas set forth in the Joint Declaration of the 2015 Riga EaP Summit, taking into account already existing arrangements and forms of cooperation among the EU and Partner Countries. Oriented toward selected key activities, it is a practical tool for the EaP policy implementation, focusing on specific positive changes.

The document's structure allows Partner Countries to use these 20 deliverables as a roadmap for the realization of EaP tasks with respect to the parties' commitments, as well as use the document to monitor progress they make. That is why we have taken it as a benchmark for the medium-term Ukrainian agenda within the EaP policy framework.

The text of the study is structured following the contents of the Joint Staff Working Document and the order in which it presents its four priorities and 20 deliverables. In the Joint Staff Working Document, information on the targets by 2020 and their milestones by 2017 Summit for each of the 20 deliverables is aggregated in tables, where each row represents a component of the complex deliverable. In the study, we have analyzed each of these components separately.

Milestone by 2017 Summit
Implementation
Main actors
Target by 2020

Table 1. The tabular format of presenting information on deliverables in the Joint Staff Working Document «Eastern Partnership – 20 Deliverables for 2020: focusing on key priorities and tangible results» (https://eeas.europa.eu/sites/eeas/files/swd_2017_300_f1_joint_staff_working_paper_en_v5_p1_940530.pdf)

Proceeding from the above information presentation form (Table 1), each of the EaP 20 deliverables was analyzed according to the following criteria:

1) **Reachability of the Milestone by 2017 Summit:** Experts determined how much achievable the prescribed results were in the Ukrainian reality, taking into consideration internal and external circumstances, reform progress and implementation plans;

2) **Achievability and ambitiousness of the Target by 2020:** Taking into account that majority of milestones and targets in the document are not Partner Country-specific, here we tried to answer the question: whether or not these targets were ambitious in view of the specificity and the level of Ukraine's relations with the EU and other Partner Countries, the progress of the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement implementation, the Association Agenda, and the progress in reforming the country;

3) **Suggested milestone/target adjustments:** Experts proposed their vision of how the milestone and/or target could be complemented or reworded within each deliverable in order to fuller take into account interests of the Ukrainian society and state as well as to enhance the document's ambitiousness;

4) **Additional EaP goals:** Where the deliverables in the document do not reflect important areas of cooperation under individual milestones/targets, experts pointed at such areas and argued for adding an additional goal to the Joint Staff Working Document.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

While preserving the biannual, summit-to-summit, political cycle of the EaP, the European Union has made one more attempt to enhance its policy projectability and, accordingly, orientation toward concrete results within multi- and bilateral formats. The Joint Staff Working Document on «Eastern Partnership – 20 Deliverables for 2020: Focusing on Key Priorities and Tangible Results,» first made public on Dec. 15, 2016, had to turn EaP policies to the logic of being oriented toward concrete achievements and fulfillment of commitments by both the European Union and the Partner Countries.

The updated document includes a section that describes **a vision of the structure of the EaP multilateral format.** These proposals are based on comments and non-papers provided by both Member States and Partner Countries.

However, the new architecture does not provide for special rendezvous for the Partner Countries that are implementing Association Agreements with the EU. Such a meeting format can help further develop the "more for more" principle, for example, allowing these countries to kick off work on studying their potential for creating a common economic space, joint participation in civilian missions as part of the EU Common Security and Defense Policy, etc.

In view of the fact that the Platforms must provide certain political direction for themes processed at the level of Panels and expert working groups, the weight of security issues seems to be diminished in comparison with other priorities. A separate intergovernmental Platform on security could add political weight to this issue and structure the activities that have already been going beyond mere issues of the Common Security and Defense Policy.

CROSS-CUTTING DELIVERABLES (INTERSECTORAL)
The inclusion of **structured engagement with a wider range of civil society organizations** in the cross-cutting (intersectoral) deliverables of the Eastern Partnership is a very positive fact. Nevertheless, the European partners should pay special attention to the significant need of institutional development of the organizations, which would facilitate development of their expert potential in individual sectors.

Strengthening multi-stakeholder dialogue through continued support to the EaP Civil Society Forum and its National Platforms is an extremely relevant task to be realized by 2020. However, its target seems to be quite blurred, and it does not specify how exactly the Forum's participation will be reinforced in both the EaP policy implementation and the promotion of reform and democracy agenda in corresponding Partner Countries.

In the context of **gender equality and non-discrimination policy**, adoption of a state program to ensure equal rights and opportunities for women and men until 2021 and ratification of the Istanbul Convention in Ukraine are what Ukrainian authorities should pay their priority attention to. Educational activities on non-discrimination, enhanced activities of entities responsible for ensuring equality and permanent monitoring of anti-discrimination legislation deserve additional attention.

It is symbolically that just the section on **strategic communications** has turned out to be the least operationalizable. The goal of fight against disinformation and increase in confidence in the EU must become a clear understanding by citizens in Partner Countries of processes in the EU and motives behind its some or other decisions. It is especially important in the Ukrainian reality. Explanation of these processes and the interrelation of decision-making responsibilities between European institutions and Member States must become one of thematic blocks of the future Concept of Informing Public on European Integration.

A matter of especial concern is that the Joint Staff Working Document neither sees the threats in Russian disinformation in EU countries nor suggests how it can be counteracted. In the EU, the main emphasis of this disinformation is put on discrediting the EaP countries and presenting them as a menace to European values. A higher trust in our countries as well as in the Ukrainian way of reforms and integration aspiration must also become part of the target by 2020.

THE PRIORITY I: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & MARKET OPPORTUNITIES underwent the largest number of changes and adjustment when the Joint Staff Working Document' deliverables were elaborated and revised (in June 2017).

In the context of **regulatory environment and SME development**, Ukraine has all possibilities to reach the milestones and achieve the targets by their deadlines, taking into account the draft Strategy for SME Development in Ukraine until 2020. The goal of achieving a considerable increase in the number of jobs as a result of the operation of EU4Business credit lines for SMEs is ambitious for Ukraine. A higher level of SME participation in public procurement should be an important goal to be added to this deliverable.

Having the **gaps in access to finance and financial infrastructure** identified by the 2017 EaP Summit is quite realistic in Ukraine. The Ukrainian internal agenda is a bit ahead of the suggested goals, making them insufficiently ambitious for our country. An ambitious target by 2020 for Ukraine to compete would be "Exchange, settlement and clearing

infrastructure of capital markets modernized, consolidated and developed, access to activities of credit organizations ensured, innovative payment products implemented, development of electronic payments and their infrastructure ensured".

The deliverable dealing with **new job opportunities at the local and regional level** needs adjustments regarding its milestones and targets. For example, Ukraine alone is able to meet the target indicators under the Mayors for Economic Growth (M4EG) initiative by 2020.

The milestone on a local pipeline of projects, which is to be elaborated and approved, does not provide a complete idea of the status and contents of planned activities the way it is set forth. Financing project initiatives from the European Regional Development Fund could become a progressive step.

Under the deliverable on **harmonization of digital markets**, the complete cancellation of roaming charges and pricing of roaming calls at the level of national retail price must become an ambitious target by 2020, in particular for Ukraine. A digital ecosystem of eGovernance development could be an additional target for the EaP under this deliverable.

In the cybersecurity context, the medium-term tasks by 2020 should be complimented with the following two, which are as important: (i) carrying out an independent expert examination on the conformity of national legislations in the EaP region with the European standards of personal data protection in the Internet; and (ii) development of roadmaps for unification of legislation on digital networks protection.

Taking into account the absence of quantitative indicators for the milestones and targets, Ukraine is able to fulfill all of the tasks associated with the **DCFTA implementation**. Most of the deliverable's milestones by the EaP Summit in Brussels have been already reached, since they deal with "positive trends," "progress in approximation" or "increased number."

Of the milestones by 2017, only inflow of foreign direct investments (FDI) and setting up Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) program in Ukraine may raise some doubts as to their achievability.

PRIORITY II: STRENGTHENING INSTITUTIONS AND GOOD GOVERNANCE
The strengthening of the **rule of law and anticorruption mechanisms** in Ukraine already has a certain institutional basis. In the context of the targets by 2020, the main challenge for Ukraine is to ensure smooth and independent operation of these systems and institutions. To achieve maximum results by 2020 under "Rule of law and anticorruption mechanisms", a target of setting up an independent Anticorruption Court would be worth being added to the deliverable.

The **key judicial reforms** at the level of milestones by 2017 Summit are partly realizable in Ukraine, whereas some of the targets by 2020 will be difficult to achieve. The biggest risk for the achievement of these goals is the prevalence of informal, often corrupt, practices of influence, which it is difficult to eradicate without significant renewal of the judiciary and prosecutorial corps. It is important to ensure the implementation of prosecution reform, including amendments to the Constitution, in order to depoliticize the mechanism of Prosecutor General appointment.

Under the **"Implementation of public administration reform"** deliverable, Ukraine has realized most milestones by 2017 in line with the Principles of Public Administration. The Public Administration Reform Strategy and the new laws "On civil service" and "On local government service" all conform to the Principles of Public Administration developed by SIGMA. At the same time, the following targets would be important for Ukraine: increased strategic capacity of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine and improved methodology of state policy making that takes into account the Principles of Public Administration.

Besides, we suggest formulating, as a target by 2020, the adoption of a law that will form a proper legal framework for implementing public consultations in the state policy making and implementation process and set up minimum standards for organizing and conducting such consultations, reflecting corresponding European standards.

In the context of **security** it would be expedient to establish regular multilateral consultations at the level of EU and EaP national security councils to address the issues of counteracting the present-day threats, including hybrid ones, in order to enhance the ability to withstand them.

Since the target by 2020 on adoption of Strategy or Action Plans to address cybercrime is to cover the entire region, it would be expedient to establish a multilateral EaP Cybersecurity Center headquartered in Ukraine. It could be an additional target by 2020. Following the logic of the EU's approaches to the sector of security in the EaP region, it looks expedient to add the following goals to the targets by 2020: elaborate and implement a multilateral mechanism for protection of critical infrastructure in Partner Countries in the transborder or regional segments.

PRIORITY III: CONNECTIVITY, ENERGY EFFICIENCY, ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE
Progress in **extension of TEN-T core networks** can be made mostly at the level milestones and targets by 2020. Ukraine has already identified its top priority infrastructure projects. The main problem with the projects is still to meet requirements set by a funding bank for preliminary project approval. Making amendments to Ukraine's PPP legislation in order to encourage private investment might become the possible solution. In the context of signing a Common Aviation Area Agreement, the target by 2020 should be signing the CAA and conditions formed for their adequate application.

The **energy supply** deliverable for Ukraine is linked to adoption of projects of strategic importance. The announced projects have different implementation potential. It is worth of noting that the proposed agenda for cooperation until 2020 is not based on assessment of real threats to the security of power supply either to the EU or to the Partner Countries. The Russian Federation is and will remain the key threat to each and all of these parties.

The deliverable on **"Energy efficiency, use of renewable energy, and reduced greenhouse gas emissions"** is not suggested in the Joint Staff Working Document as ambitiously as EaP countries need. A total of five items are suggested within this deliverable, of which three in fact concern greenhouse gas emissions and only the two first indirectly focus on energy efficiency. In general, proper and fast implementation of Directives 2012/27/EU on energy efficiency and 2010/31/EU on the energy performance of buildings can bring the biggest effect in terms of reduction of energy consumption in Ukraine. Therefore, having the accelerated implementation of these Directives as targets by 2020 would add weight and ambitiousness.

Within the framework of the **deliverable on environment and adaptation to climate change**, the themes related to environmental governance should be prioritized in the process of drafting an Action Plan along provisions of EaP Ministerial Declaration on Cooperation on Environment and Climate Change. Here, an Overview of Environmental Governance in the six EaP countries, containing an analysis and recommendations for improvement, must become the key milestone by the end of 2017. As a result, the target by 2020 could be the drafting and implementation of regional and national Action Plans for good environmental governance based on the Overview's conclusions and recommendations.

PRIORITY IV: MOBILITY AND PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE CONTACTS
Ukraine has successfully reached the milestone of the **visa liberalization dialogs and mobility partnerships** deliverable. At the same time, the implementation of the visa-free regime must be accompanied in Ukraine by the irreversibility of reforms, especially in the anticorruption area. Setting up an effective post-liberalization monitoring, using the EaP CSF capacities among other things, could be an additional target by 2020.

Young people's skills, entrepreneurship and employability as a deliverable not always demonstrate clear quantitative indicators, preventing assessment of their ambitiousness. It seems that a promising goal for Ukraine would be to set up national centers and portals of EURAXESS. Their task would be to supply information on current offers of grants and scholarships as well as give all necessary advices for scientists going abroad.

Since Ukraine participates in the Creative Europe program, there could be a goal of extending its network in Partner Countries and supporting projects initiated just by the Partner Countries' organizations.

Integration of EaP and EU research and innovation systems and programs should be based on clear indicators. For Ukraine, the target by 2020 might include hammering out a Development Strategy for the system of scientific, technological and innovation activities as well as ensuring that 25% of all available state funds intended for R&D are distributed through competitive project financing.

PROGRAMMING EASTERN PARTNERSHIP POLICIES UNTIL 2020
At the EU institutions level, annual summarizing of information on achievement of the Joint Staff Working Document's targets would be worthwhile, like is was in the earlier annual progress reports on the EaP implementation, which were produced by the European side before 2015.

At the level of the Partner Countries, it would be expedient to develop corresponding implementation plans for the «20 Deliverables for 2020». In Ukraine, the Government Office for European and Euro-Atlantic Integration could develop a joint progress report for Action Plan on Implementation of the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement for 2014-17, Association Agenda and the «20 Deliverables for 2020.» Of course, this should be preceded by spadework to define objectives that would complement the current commitments of Ukraine and the EU.

CROSS-CUTTING DELIVERABLES

1 STRUCTURED ENGAGEMENT WITH CIVIL SOCIETY

👤 **Yulia Tyschenko,** Ukrainian Center for Independent Political Research, UNP Working Group 1

Milestone by 2017 Summit	At least 6 large scale funding schemes in place (1 per EaP Country), to develop capacities of CSOs and support build-up of technical expertise in key sectors.
Target by 2020	Strengthened management capacities and technical expertise of CSOs to constructively engage with governments at grassroots, local and national level.

☑ **Reachability of the Milestone by 2017 Summit for Ukraine:**

The milestone looks realistic for Ukraine to achieve. At the same time, donors-funded technical assistance projects for CSOs to a significant extent focus on project activities and are not extended to institutional support of organizations in terms of organizational capacity building.

↪ **Achievability and ambitiousness of the Target by 2020:**

The target of strengthened management capacities and technical expertise of CSOs is realistic, provided the organizational capacity of stakeholders is supported and expertise development opportunities created. This goal is utterly important from the point of view of CSO sustainable development support. At the same time, it is also necessary to look for various possibilities for resource support of such sustainability at regional level, and facilitate decision making that will allow the state to finance independent CSOs, while preserving their independence in conducting their activities.

✏ **Comments and suggestions:**

To ensure CSO capacity building and technical expertise support in key sectors, it would be expedient to systemically develop the organizational capacity of CSOs as well as the systems of policies and internal regulations. This can become one of cross-cutting components of assistance projects, transparency and accountability, and uphold expert activities in parallel with organization development. At the regional level, in order to increase the capacity of local governments, transparent mechanisms of their collaboration with CSOs should be developed at organizational level, and the capacity of regional authorities to develop and administer relevant projects/initiatives should be facilitated through training in project proposal writing and project implementation as well as in setting transparent policies for implementation supervision by independent supervisory boards. It would be also important to develop state funds for support of CSOs' initiatives.

Milestone by 2017 Summit	**1st group of Civil Society Policy Fellows have improved skills to generate evidence-based policy input, and 1st group of young leaders identified together with hosting organisations that will provide technical support.**
Target by 2020	**80 Civil Society Policy Fellowships awarded and 300 youth leaders supported.**

⤶ Achievability and ambitiousness of the Target by 2020:

The target is realistic but vague regarding its quantitative indicators. It is not clear how 300 youth leaders will be supported and 80 Civil Society Policy Fellowships will be awarded.

✎ Comments and suggestions:

It would be desirable to specify the ways the youth leaders can be supported: mini projects and initiatives, activities support areas, what exactly capacity development means (e.g., 80 Civil Society Policy Fellowships will be awarded for training in conducting an expert study and/or research project development). For example, the Erasmus+ initiative provides for training under a Master's degree program. It would be also good to mention whether any extension of these areas is planned in case the target is met.

Milestone by 2017 Summit	**Develop a Monitoring Tool for civic space in the Eastern Neighbourhood.**
Target by 2020	**Obtain meaningful information on evolutions in participation space for civil society organisations in the Eastern Partnership countries.**

☑ Reachability of the Milestone by 2017 Summit:

Fully meeting the goal of having a Monitoring Tool for civic space in the Eastern Neighborhood developed appears unrealistic. The development of monitoring and a monitoring toolkit requires finding common approaches to various areas, working out and agreeing on indicators, and clearly identifying parties. However, there could be activities on drafting corresponding tasks and indicators. During the Summit, these draft tasks and indicators could be discussed and agreed upon, and parties clearly defined, taking into account relevant national plans.

⤶ Achievability and ambitiousness of the Target by 2020:

Achieving this target by 2020 is realistic: there will be enough time to agree on approaches and indicators, develop a Monitoring Tool and carry out monitoring itself, as well as test the data, taking into account changes in plans of Partner Countries and formats of their cooperation with the EU under its Neighborhood Policy, should there be such changes.

✎ Comments and suggestions:

Realization of the stated goals seems to be expedient in view of the "more for more" principle introduced several years ago. Accordingly, the theoretical impact of a policy within a country on its civic space situation can be determined for policy development as a whole. The implementation of such a monitoring toolkit will help identify strengths and weaknesses of tools in individual countries for development and capacity building of civic space and CSOs. It will also potentially affect development of CSOs' cooperation with public authorities and establishment of monitoring and supervision of the authorities' activities, as well as facilitate more reasoned communication of parties.

Milestone by 2017 Summit	**Improved multi-stakeholder policy dialogue through continued support to the EaP Civil Society Forum and its National Platforms.** *[Institutionalisation of government – civil society – EU dialogue currently emerging, notably through the structures of the EaP Civil Society Forum]*
Target by 2020	**Well-functioning and regular multi-stakeholder policy dialogue through the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum and its National Platforms.**

☑ Reachability of the Milestone by 2017 Summit:

This milestone looks realistic. Reaching it depends on whether the capacities of National Platforms will be increased in terms of expertise, systemic work, effective and efficient management and partnership with stakeholders, as well as on special projects to support analytical activities of CSOs and support of joint projects of CSOs with other stakeholders.

↪ Achievability and ambitiousness of the Target by 2020:

The target looks realistic, although the formulation «well-functioning and regular multi-stakeholder policy dialogue through the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum and its National Platforms» is rather vague.

✎ Comments and suggestions:

It is advisable to adjust the Target by 2020. First, it should be mentioned that the Forum participates in the development of multiyear and annual action plans of the Eastern Partnership, as well as has the right to participate in meetings of EU foreign ministers and EaP Ministerial meetings, Informal Dialogues and Senior Officials Meetings, which discuss the EaP policy planning, coordination, implementation and evaluation.

Second, activities of the CSF and its National Platforms are tuned in accordance with the four priorities of the Joint Staff Working Document; the complex monitoring system for implementation of the 20 deliverables is also based on these priorities.

Third, a set of the Forum's, its National Platforms' and its Working Groups' annual analytical and monitoring products, which are used by European institutions and national governments in the EaP policy cycle, has been formed.

Fourth, all six National Platforms have to receive financing for administrative and operating activities and develop strategies of their activities until 2020. The Ukrainian National Platform can become a good example owing to its activities under the EU project on Civic Synergy. Annual monitoring of Partner Countries' performance on the 20 Deliverables for 2020 must become one of periodic professional products of each of the National Platforms.

2 GENDER EQUALITY AND NON-DISCRIMINATION

👤 **Tetiana Ivanina,** Bureau for Gender Strategies and Budgeting, UNP Working Group 1
👤 **Yulia Savelyeva,** Women's Consortium of Ukraine, UNP Working Group 1

Milestone by 2017 Summit	**Gender Analysis conducted in the framework of the Gender Action Plan in at least four Partner Countries.**
Target by 2020	**Gender mainstreamed in public policies with gender disaggregated data available per policy and better gender specific statistics available.** **Gender Action Plan implemented.**

☑ Reachability of the Milestone by 2017 Summit:

A novel in the Gender Action Plan is that a gender analysis will be systematically done in any foreign activity of the EU, namely under projects as well as bilateral and regional programs. Any reporting on this kind of activities will contain every available sex-disaggregated data. When necessary, joint efforts will be made to obtain such a data. So indeed, since late 2016, application forms for EU projects have been containing a gender analysis requirement with a reference to the Gender Action Plan. However, as of 2017, it is hardly possible to measure this novel's impact, since no results of the calls announced over this period are available so far. It is also worth mentioning that, even before 2016, a gender analysis was sometimes carried out to order, in particular from the UN Women program.

↪ Achievability and ambitiousness of the Target by 2020:

The target deadline can be met if only a state program to ensure equal rights and opportunities for women and men until 2021 will be adopted within the prescribed time. By now, just a concept of the program has been approved. The major challenges include the lack of practice of applying a gender analysis in state policy making and monitoring. Taking this into account, and provided that the described above current trends keep up, this target by 2020 can be called ambitious enough.

✏ Comments and suggestions:

In addition to the current Gender Action Plan, the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement could also help reaching this gender equality and non-discrimination milestone. Title V of the AA, specifically Chapter 21 on "Cooperation on employment, social policy and equal opportunities", touches upon the matter. Nevertheless, even this fact gives little hope that the milestone will be reached in 2017, since this aspect of the Agreement is not paid proper attention.
As for the availability of sex-disaggregated statistical data, the State Statistics Service of Ukraine ensures this. However, the Service's official web site lacks a separate section on these issues. The "Women and Men in Ukraine" statistical book, which contains a system of relevant indicators characterizing the situation in Ukraine as a whole and by regions, is published once per two years. The book's most recent issue posted on the SSS site is dated 2014.

Milestone by 2017 Summit	**Progress in the implementation of existing anti-discrimination legislation and establishment of equality bodies or equivalent in at least three Partner Countries.**
Target by 2020	**Anti-discrimination legislation on adopted in remaining Partner Countries.** **Progress in harmonising relevant legislation.** **Track record of equality bodies established and effective monitoring of anti-discrimination law.** **Ratification of the Council of Europe Istanbul Convention y Partner Countries.** **Sexual and gender based violence/domestic violence legislation adopted in all Partner Countries and effective referral mechanisms are in place.** **Track record of equality bodies established and effective monitoring of anti-discrimination law.**

☑ Reachability of the Milestone by 2017 Summit:

As of 2009, the structure of national gender equality mechanism in Ukraine was built up. At present, this mechanism, which includes the representation in the Ukrainian Parliament and the Cabinet of Ministers as well as at the ministerial and regional levels, has limited human and financial resources, and activities conducted within its framework are neither systemic nor cross-cutting.

Ukrainian Ombudswoman and, on an initiative of CSOs, a group of experts carry out monitoring of anti-discrimination legislation from time to time. Therefore, the task is realistic, since there are necessary provisions in the Ukrainian Constitution and antidiscrimination legislation, and there is an effective Strategy of Activities in Discrimination Prevention and Counteraction for 2014-2017. The major challenges include the weakness of legislation, recognized by human rights activists, the ineffective mechanism of infringed right restoration and bringing the infringer to account as well as the judicial enforcement practice.

↪ Achievability and ambitiousness of the Target by 2020:

The goals under this target are quite ambitious, since discrimination, violation of human rights and groundless protraction of solving the sexual and gender-based violence problem (including that of domestic violence) are widespread. It should be mentioned in this context that in November 2016 the Ukrainian Parliament passed in the first reading the draft law "On domestic violence prevention and counteraction," whereas the draft law "On amending certain laws of Ukraine in view of ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence" was sent back to the Parliamentary Committee on Foreign Affairs for elaboration.

✎ Comments and suggestions:

A special challenge is the postponement of Istanbul Convention ratification in Ukraine. Comments and recommendations for the text of the bill on its ratification include requests to remove the words "gender" and "sexual orientation."

Proceeding from the above, the following is necessary:

▸ Urgent ratification of the Istanbul Convention;

▸ Education activities on issues of discrimination – to identify discrimination and ensure proper response from both people and the state;

▸ Operating strengthening of entities responsible for ensuring equality, and continuous monitoring of anti-discrimination legislation.

Milestone by 2017 Summit	**Young women targeted in EU4Youth calls (50% target).** *[EU4Youth to be implemented starting 2017]*
Target by 2020	**Young women targeted in EU4Youth calls (75% target).**

☑ Reachability of the Milestone by 2017 Summit:

The EU4Youth program, which aims at solving issues of youth employment, leadership and entrepreneurship, only puts an accent on young women as a target group. However, this aspect is not visible in calls for applications. Moreover, taking into account that the program was launched in Ukraine in 2017, it is difficult to evaluate its effectiveness yet. The EU4Youth call, announced in 2017, did not have a special priority on gender equality, just mentioned that actions intended to ensure employment of women/youth would be considered as an additional advantage. Conclusions can be drawn after successful projects are selected and implemented.

↪ Achievability and ambitiousness of the Target by 2020:

The target is quite ambitious for Ukraine, since women's access to calls (50% to 75% of all target groups) is not actualized as a problem, whereas opportunities for women in Ukraine are approximately by a quarter below that for men.

Milestone by 2017 Summit	**To help address the gender gap in access to finance, at least 50% of targeted local banks targeted with support from the Women in Business programme improve women-led SMEs lending through capacity building.** **At least 90% of targeted Women SMEs are trained through the entrepreneurial skills development courses and at least 40% of assisted companies achieve increases in employment and at least 50% achieve increases in turnover.**
Target by 2020	**EU contribution to the Women in Business programme, leverages at least USD 55 million in sub-loans from local banks to Women-led enterprises.**

☑ Reachability of the Milestone by 2017 Summit:

Indeed, there is a project on Small Business Support Group being implemented in Ukraine under the Women in Business program. A preliminary expert assessment indicates the existence of success stories in addressing the tasks comprised by the milestone. Therefore, there is a high probability that the task will be fulfilled.

↪ Achievability and ambitiousness of the Target by 2020:

It is difficult to evaluate the target as formulated since no official quantitative and qualitative information on results of the Women in Business program is available. Nevertheless, the task is quite ambitious for Ukraine, since the gender representation disproportions in business here are obvious: women own only 22% of businesses and manage mere 6% of large-scale businesses.

⊞ Additional EaP targets:

As the target by 2020, "ensured effective supervision and improved legislative mechanisms for implementation of the National Action Plan for the Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security for the Period until 2020" could be included. The extension of women's rights and opportunities to being involved in peacemaking is one of the present day's main challenges and therefore is relevant for both Ukraine and other EaP Partner Countries. The implementation of recommendations provided by the International Forum "Partnership between Parliament, Government and Civic Society for Implementation of the National Action Plan Women, Peace, Security," held on Sep. 15, 2016 in Kyiv, can be suggested as a target.

3 STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS, PLURALITY AND INDEPENDENCE OF MEDIA

👤 **Andriy Kulakov,** Internews Ukraine, UNP Working Group 1

Milestone by 2017 Summit	Strengthened and better coordinated positive communication of the concrete benefits of EU/Partners' cooperation. More communications events and clearly branded thematic initiatives, to improve awareness of the EU and its culture, and of EU programmes. More diverse and professionally strengthened channels of communications deployed; more diverse and regional audiences reached, including Russian speaking.
Target by 2020	More coherent branding, messaging, visibility and outreach. Increased number of people in Partner Countries associates EU with positive change and concrete social and economic benefits for states and individuals. Numbers of media professionals trained sustained/increased Enhanced capacity of beneficiaries from EU assistance and agencies implementing EU support to promote and actively support communication activities and public diplomacy in the region. Numbers of media organisations devoting space/air-time to EU related themes increased.

☑ **Reachability of the Milestone by 2017 Summit:**

The milestone is presented somewhat unclear, since no concrete quantitative indicators are specified that are expected to be reached. Setting such indicators is difficult from the practical point of view though: they must be based on complex and in-depth sociological research carried out at the beginning of planning as well as at an intermediate and the final stages of communications in the preset period.

↪ **Achievability and ambitiousness of the Target by 2020:**

Generally speaking, these goals are achievable. A lot is being done in Ukraine to this end both institutionally and procedurally. Every project the EU supports in Ukraine has its own communications component. There is special support for communications components of EU projects in Ukraine within the framework of which the projects receive assistance in various forms (public events, media documents, communication competence building). All the projects implemented under the auspices of the EU must strictly follow relevant visualization rules. If these rules are revised and updated to put more emphasis on their observance, as this target implies, it will have a positive effect on its achievement. Moreover, special communication projects and programs, which aim at improving the EU image and promoting the European values and standards for various target audiences, have been already either launched or planned. Not only the EU but also other donor institutions fund such projects and information campaigns, e.g., USAID, MATRA, etc. This can lead to a cumulative and synergetic effect. Add to it a positive impact produced by communication of reforms as a process of approaching the European standards.

✏️ **Comments and suggestions:**

The level (same or increased) of public support shown for joining the EU or further European integration of Ukraine and other Partner Countries, as well as the level of communication capacities of EU projects' implementers could be more specific indicators.

Milestone by 2017 Summit	**Three level campaign strategy implemented: (i) over-arching «stronger together» campaign; (ii) horizontal, thematic campaigns on regional programmes; and (iii) national campaigns in each Partner Country, reflecting EaP priorities and linking in particular to the EaP Summit and top 20 deliverables.** **Annual surveys and focus groups in each Partner Country.**
Target by 2020	**Increased number of people considers the EU reliable/credible/ understandable partner.**

☑️ **Reachability of the Milestone by 2017 Summit:**

Although this task is formulated clearer, it nevertheless also lacks clear quantitative guideposts. The milestone specifies a measuring mechanism – annual surveys and focus groups. This will significantly help monitor the execution of the task and achievement of its goals.

🔁 **Achievability and ambitiousness of the Target by 2020:**

The qualitative definition of this target is rather blurred. Such denotations of the EU as a reliable/credible/ understandable partner imply that respondents will have to compare the EU's reliability with that of other geopolitical actors (such as Russia and the United States). Making a comparison like that can have a negative effect, since the EU's steps and the geopolitical context are quite variable, whereas the influence of Russia and the anti-Western mood in some of the EaP countries are quite high. We would suggest the following EU features instead: "a medium of technologies and progress," "the primacy of lawfulness and human rights," "a driving force of civilization breakthrough," "countries of high living standards," etc.

✏️ **Comments and suggestions:**

The document should mention that the implementation would be assigned to all communication projects, programs and project components in each Partner Country. As for the OPEN Neighborhood (EU Neighbors East), it should rather perform a coordinating and guiding role for structuring of all communications.

Milestone by 2017 Summit	**Increased support to independent media and professional journalism in the EaP region.**
Target by 2020	**A more independent and professionally strengthened media, to enhance its resistance to bias and propaganda.** **Plurality of independent information improved.** **The audience share of media outlets having received EU assistance is growing.**

☑️ **Reachability of the Milestone by 2017 Summit:**

Reaching the milestone is realistic, especially because it does not contain any clear and measurable indicators, and there are a number of ongoing projects aimed at supporting the independent media and professional journalism in Ukraine.

🔁 **Achievability and ambitiousness of the Target by 2020:**

As it is formulated, the target is highly achievable. However, the absence of measurable indicators makes it unambitious. In this aspect, it would be worth adding, first and foremost, the adoption and implementation of relevant laws in the region's countries.

✏️ Comments and suggestions:

A conclusion suggests itself, that this deliverable component orients, to a significant extent, to the creation of a Russian-lingual news product for the EaP region. However, this orientation will promote the russkiy mir ("Russian world") ideology even more – through language identification. Russian language is becoming ever less used in the region, and accordingly, this trend should be supported in the media space. Development of strong national-language media with interesting, attractive and professionally made content can be instrumental in fulfilling this task. Moreover, special attention should be paid to the making of a system of real public broadcasting in EaP countries. For the media independence aspect, it would be also worth adding a focus on media ownership transparency and an antimonopoly dimension. The economic element of media independence is utterly important; therefore, attention should be pinpointed to an independent system for measuring audiences and circulations, too.

Also worth adding are joint media projects of Partner Countries initiated to adequately cover events and various policies within these countries and form a common identity of the EaP as such.

Milestone by 2017 Summit	**Reinforced efforts to counter disinformation.**
Target by 2020	**Public support for the EU is level or increasing in all Partner Countries.** **Improved resilience to disinformation.**

☑️ Reachability of the Milestone by 2017 Summit:

The milestone in its current wording may be considered achieved, since it does not require measurable confirmation. The institutional and legal prerequisites for strengthening information security, which were established in Ukraine, have made the Ukrainian information space healthier. The resistance to Russian disinformation has been enhanced pretty much owing to civic and volunteer initiatives (StopFake, InfoResist).

↪️ Achievability and ambitiousness of the Target by 2020:

Again, this target does not specify a quantitative guidepost for an increase in public support for the EU

✏️ Comments and suggestions:

Clear understanding by citizens in Partner Countries of processes in the EU and motives behind its some or other decisions must become a goal of the fight against disinformation. It seems to be more expedient to downsize the news product in Russian for the entire region (where the percentage of Russian-lingual population has been naturally diminishing) and reorient to work with national languages. Media literacy programs for different target audiences as well as development and support of public media in the region's countries should be added to the activities. Efforts of such actors as the EEAS East Stratcom Task Force and European Endowment for Democracy, despite their entire positive role, are not enough to fulfil this task. It would be worth activating the synergy of various donor institutions and, probably, provide the EEAS East Stratcom Task Force with a larger resource base, and envisage special counter-disinformation programs for relevant representative offices of the EU in Partner Countries.

PRIORITY I:
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & MARKET OPPORTUNITIES
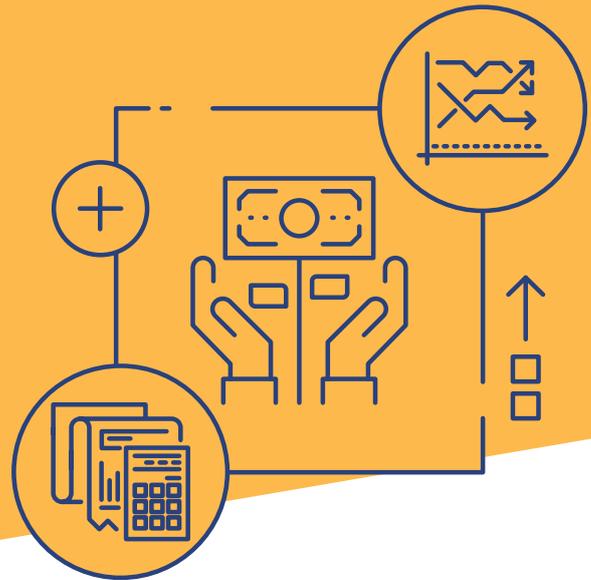
4

REGULATORY ENVIRONMENT AND SMEs DEVELOPMENT

👤 **Viktor Zhykh,** All-Ukrainian Association of Small and Medium Business Entrepreneurs "Fortetsya", UNP Working Group 2

Milestone by 2017 Summit	**At least 1 000 SMEs have received financial support from EU4Business resources, since the end of 2015.**
Target by 2020	**At least 10 000 additional SMEs to benefit from EU assistance (with 80% in DCFTA countries), since the end of 2016.** **At least another 60 000 new jobs created and/or sustained in the supported companies, since the end of 2016.**

☑ **Reachability of the Milestone by 2017 Summit:**

Since the second half of 2016, to provide consultation and financial assistance to Ukrainian SMEs, the EU4Business initiative has established a network of 15 business support centers with a total budget of €40 million, of which €12 million is earmarked for immediate lending. However, the lending has not been started so far. Therefore, whether or not this milestone will be reached depends on how soon this work begins.

↪ **Achievability and ambitiousness of the Target by 2020:**

Absence of legislative barriers to the provision of financial support to SMEs in Ukraine makes achievement of this goal possible in terms of the number of assistance recipients. However, the created jobs target depends inter alia on relevant economic reforms and deregulation, as well as on the adequacy of financial assistance tools applied and the capacities of targeted recipients.

✏ **Comments and suggestions:**

The most ambitious and challenging goal for Ukraine is to achieve a considerable increase in the number of jobs as a result of the operation of EU4Business credit lines for SMEs. The implementation of these plans to a significant extent depends on the assistance strategy and correspondence between this strategy and the SME functioning conditions and structure in Ukraine, especially in the issues of export-oriented entrepreneurship. This requires an analysis and, possibly, introduction of additional financial tools and approaches or adjustment of the current ones.

Milestone by 2017 Summit	**SME strategies and action plans/roadmaps adopted in at least one more Partner Country.** *[To date three countries already have SME Strategies in place]*
Target by 2020	**Partner Countries to improve the score on a 2019 OECD Small Business Act assessment by 10% on the regulatory framework, the operational environment and support to SMEs (as compared to 2015).**

☑ Reachability of the Milestone by 2017 Summit:
On May 24, 2017, the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine approved a Strategy for Small and Medium Enterprise Development in Ukraine until 2020. This means that this milestone may be considered reached.

↪ Achievability and ambitiousness of the Target by 2020:
The target set for 2020 is ambitious and what Ukraine much needs. At the same time, its achievability to a significant extent depends on how much the Strategy implementation will correspond to the actual situation of SME functioning in Ukraine. In the first place, this relates to how the simplified taxation system will develop, what is not mentioned in the Strategy, as well as how the general taxation system will be reformed.

✎ Comments and suggestions:
Achievement of the target by 2020 requires adherence of the Government to the direction of actions specified in the strategy, in particular by developing and adopting an appropriate legal framework and providing funds.

Milestone by 2017 Summit	**Priorities and recommendations of the private sector to improve the business climate and related economic reforms are communicated to their governments: declaration by the East Invest business community presented before the 2017 EaP Business Forum.**
Target by 2020	**Public Private Dialogue (PPD) institutionalised across the EaP region through appropriate mechanisms (e.g. PPD platform steering group/ consultative forum established, PPD rules agreed upon).**

☑ Reachability of the Milestone by 2017 Summit:
The annual conference of East Invest 2, held in Kyiv on June 21, 2017, adopted a declaration that defined priorities for private sector in order to improve the business environment and conduct necessary economic reforms.

↪ Achievability and ambitiousness of the Target by 2020:
The PPD institutionalization is an important and ambitious goal for Ukraine. Its achievement requires reforming the system of communication between the private and public sectors, which is currently implemented via the system of entrepreneurs' councils. It is necessary, in the first place, to ensure SME representation on the councils, especially at the regional level. The SME Development Strategy also mentions the necessity of such a reform.

✎ Comments and suggestions:
It would make sense to supplement the target by mentioning entrepreneurs' councils as a tool and the mandatory SME representation on the councils. Civil society organizations of SMEs and business associations also should be added to the involved entities, what is especially important at the regional level.

Milestone by 2017 Summit	**Improved support services to businesses via:** ‣ **the strengthening of a network of at least 100 business support organisations;** ‣ **provision of coaching and advisory services (management, business, accounting, export).**
Target by 2020	**150 supported client-oriented business support organisations improved their services to SMEs, also in relations to the DCFTA requirements, as well as global market requirements.** **Improved/increased number of assistance programmes by national authorities to their SMEs (dedicated SMEs agency in place in each Partner Country).**

☑ Reachability of the Milestone by 2017 Summit:

Ukraine joined COSME in May 23, 2016 and ratified the agreement on participation in the program on Feb. 22, 2017. Its biggest subprogram is the Enterprise Europe Network (EEN), which comprises over 600 business support and development organizations. To improve communication on access to financial resources and services for SMEs, EU4Business in the second half of 2016 also set up a network of 15 business support centers, most of which function in collaboration with regional Chambers of Commerce and Industry of Ukraine. Thus, the milestone's reachability is realistic.

↪ Achievability and ambitiousness of the Target by 2020:

The target achievability is realistic and important for Ukraine. However, the effectiveness of SME support activities depends, to a significant extent, on how much ramified the support networks are regionally. Presently, EEN has in Ukraine as few as eight partners, of which just one is regional. Of the 15 centers of EU4Business, 14 are regional (and 1 – in Kyiv), what is by far below even the number of regions in Ukraine, let alone the lower administrative units. Therefore, ambitiousness of the target requires extension of the regional presence.

✎ Comments and suggestions:

It would make sense to make the Target by 2020 more specific as to the presence of support centers in every region and every city with 100,000 residents or more. The network extension of client-oriented SME support organizations in the regional dimension requires involvement of civil society organizations of SMEs and business associations.

Milestone by 2017 Summit	**Organisation of investment roadshows under the EU4Business (East Invest programme).** **6 roadshows in 2016 which gathered 134 SMEs and 6 roadshows in 2017 gathering more than 120 SMEs.** **Organisation of at least two Business Fora in June 2017, gathering more than 200 SMEs each.**
Target by 2020	**Setting up of a new regional economic diplomacy framework for increased trade and investment promotion in/across the EaP region.**

☑ Reachability of the Milestone by 2017 Summit:

Within the EastInvest frameworks, the Ukrainian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (the program's coordinator in Ukraine) in 2016 and the first half of 2017 carried out nine roadshows in eight EaP countries. Over 80 representatives of Ukrainian SMEs participated in these events. Concluding conference of East Invest 2 was held on June 21, 2017 in Kyiv. Thus, the milestone may be considered reached.

↪ Achievability and ambitiousness of the Target by 2020:

The pace of reaching the milestone allows us to believe that achievement of the target is realistic. Its ambitiousness

is ensuing from the dominant role of direct links within regional economic diplomacy frameworks at the SME level for trade and mutual investment development.

✎ Comments and suggestions:

Further functioning of EastInvest would be an important factor of SME development and cooperation in EaP countries and would have a significant impact on achievement of allied SME development goals, especially increase in jobs. Therefore, we propose to extend the program until at least 2020 – either as a stand-alone project or as part of EU4Business.

✚ Additional goals:

A higher level of SME participation in public procurement should be a desirable and important goal to be added to the "SME development and regulatory environment" deliverable. An increase in the SME share of public procurement in Partner Countries by at least 30% as compared to 2016 should be its target by 2020, whereas the implementation of an eProcurement system in at least one Partner Country should be the milestone by 2017 Summit.

By now, at least two EaP countries – Georgia and Ukraine – have launched open public procurement using a specially developed e-bidding system. Implementation of a public procurement reform based on the same principle will begin in Moldova this year.

The public procurement reform in Partner Countries has a very significant impact on both the situation of economic reforms (including considerable additional opportunities for SME development) and the regulatory environment, as well as helps in the fight against corruption and encourages the fair competition.

5 GAPS IN ACCESS TO FINANCE AND FINANCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Yuriy Vdovenko, Center for Cross-Border Cooperation, UNP Working Group 2

Milestone by 2017 Summit	Gaps in access to finance related to missing financial sector infrastructure identified in at least three Partner Countries.
Target by 2020	Pilot programmes developing a comprehensive approach to implement capital market reforms started in at least three Partner Countries.
	Efficient credit registries developed in three countries, assuring a wider coverage and a more efficient flow of information among financial intermediaries, to facilitate collateral based lending.
	Set up and development of alternative sources of financing for SMEs supported. This should include: instruments to facilitate investments (i.e. leasing, factoring) and instruments to increase export (i.e. export guarantee mechanisms, insurance schemes), as well as equity financing.

☑ Reachability of the Milestone by 2017 Summit:

Having the gaps in access to finance identified by the 2017 EaP Summit is quite realistic. In the case of Ukraine, the main problems of financial sector infrastructure are related to the stock market, insurance system and non-state pension system. Proper coordination of execution of this task is a challenge, requiring close cooperation of the National Bank, Finance Ministry and MoEDT. The Comprehensive Program for Development of Financial Sector of Ukraine until 2020 should serve as a base for the analysis. However, the task is complicated by the fact that no report is available on the Program's implementation progress so far.

↪ Achievability and ambitiousness of the Target by 2020:

The target is not ambitious enough for Ukraine. There is a much broader circle of tasks within this deliverable component on the internal agenda, which is not limited to the issues of developing credit registries and setting up alternative sources of financing for SMEs. The Comprehensive Program for Development of Financial Sector of Ukraine until 2020 includes 45 acts of EU legislation to be implemented in accordance with the Association Agreement. In the Strategy for Small and Medium Enterprise Development in Ukraine until 2020, the block on "Ensuring access to finance" contains 10 tasks, and the block on "Ensuring access to foreign markets," eight tasks. This target by 2020 should be expanded to take interests of Ukraine into account.

✎ Comments and suggestions:

The list of goals to be achieved by 2020, which concern other Partner Countries as well, should be made more specific with respect to SMEs: Special crediting and financing schemes developed and implemented; Export credits and investment insurance mechanisms are used under a state export support program; An independent credit guarantee fund is established.

Milestone by 2017 Summit	**Increased financial support to SMEs provided in local currency, including through the launch of a study to analyse blended finance solutions to reduce foreign exchange risk and identify best practices.**
Target by 2020	**At least 1/4 of EU financial support to SMEs is provided through local currency financing, since the end of 2016.**

☑ Reachability of the Milestone by 2017 Summit:

Having the financial support to SMEs provided in local currency increased before the EaP 2017 Summit looks problematic. On the other hand, the necessity to conduct the said study has matured and meets urgent needs of improving the current SME support system. Carrying out the study by the 2017 Summit is quite feasible.

↻ Achievability and ambitiousness of the Target by 2020:

Having the EU financial support to SMEs reoriented to an increased role of local currency by 2020 is quite achievable. It will add flexibility to satisfying SME demands in Partner Countries and reduce foreign exchange risks. However, the indicator of 1/4 does not look too ambitious and may be at least doubled to bring this share up to 1/2 or more by the end of 2020. Using the end of 2017 as a benchmark would be more logical.

✎ Comments and suggestions:

When setting goals for improvement of EU financial support to SMEs, it would be expedient not to limit this issue to switching it over to national currency. This system in general needs revising in order to streamline it to allow as many SMEs as possible in Partner Countries to take advantage of its opportunities. It will most likely require a separate study and additional consultations.

➕ Additional EaP goals:

Taking the above into account, we propose to complement the targets for this deliverable with the following item: "Exchange, settlement and clearing infrastructure of capital markets modernized, consolidated and developed, access to activities of credit organizations ensured, innovative payment products implemented, development of electronic payments and their infrastructure ensured, activities of institutions with digital money carried on, and basic provisions of ISO20022 and ISO13616 standards (IBAN) implemented in at least one Partner Country."

6 NEW JOB OPPORTUNITIES AT THE LOCAL AND REGIONAL LEVEL

Yuriy Vdovenko, Center for Cross-Border Cooperation, UNP Working Group 2

Milestone by 2017 Summit	**New Mayors for Economic Growth initiative launched; at least 10 Partner Countries' Local Authorities committed to submit a plan for local economic development and selected for grant demonstration projects.**
Target by 2020	**At least 30 Partner Countries' Local Authorities implement a plan for local economic development, and at least 10 urban demonstration projects are kick-started.**

☑ Reachability of the Milestone by 2017 Summit:

There are ample possibilities in Ukraine to reach this milestone. Although the milestone is quite realistic, its achievement will require a significant intellectual resource input, which in turn will require additional efforts to increase the capacities of local and regional authorities.

↪ Achievability and ambitiousness of the Target by 2020:

The target is ambitious enough and meets the needs of Ukraine. The present-day importance of this initiative is due to the ongoing decentralization processes in Ukraine and is amplified by the already announced call for projects at a total budget of €9.5 million (€4.5 million for Ukraine). The target is also relevant for other Partner Countries.

✎ Comments and suggestions:

Ukraine alone is able to meet the quantitative indicators set within the M4EG initiative, so it would be worth raising a question before the EU on having the numbers of involved local authorities and demonstration projects at least doubled.

Milestone by 2017 Summit	**A local pipeline of projects is elaborated and approved in at least one Partner Country through a multi-sectoral regional development strategy programme.**
Target by 2020	**Where appropriate, decentralisation process implemented per relevant Public Administration Reform strategy.** **Regional development projects implemented where appropriate in at least three Partner Countries via their pipeline and/or regional development fund.** **Regional/local stakeholders participating in planning and implementation of relevant local pipeline in at least three Partner Countries.**

☑ **Reachability of the Milestone by 2017 Summit:**

The task of elaborating and approving a local pipeline of projects is realistic and fully corresponding to the processes that take place at the current stage of the regional policy and local government reform in Ukraine.

↪ **Achievability and ambitiousness of the Target by 2020:**

The target is ambitious but needs clarification from the EU, since it does not provide adequate understanding of the pipeline essence and status. A separate clarification is required on whether the matter is Partner Countries' funds of access to resources of the European Regional Development Fund. The latter could become a revolutionary factor in development of the Partner Countries' regions.

✎ **Comments and suggestions:**

It would be important for Ukraine to provide an additional target point, which is an extraordinarily pressing issue for other Partner Countries as well: Capability of authorities and other key stakeholders to develop and implement effective regional development policies increased; regions' competitiveness strengthened; territorial social and economic cohesion improved.

Milestone by 2017 Summit	**At least one Partner Country committed to develop place-based smart specialisation strategy for research and innovation to enhance regional competitiveness.**
Target by 2020	**Smart specialisation strategies identifying key priorities for economic modernisation developed in at least two countries.**

☑ **Reachability of the Milestone by 2017 Summit:**

Execution of this task is realistic, and Ukraine is able to ensure the development of place-based smart specialization strategies before the deadline. Since this priority concerns a position at strategic level, the major challenges in the context of the realistic feature are related not so much to achieving goals and obtaining results as to new employment opportunities that are expected to appear following the development of such strategies.

↪ **Achievability and ambitiousness of the Target by 2020:**

The task of developing place-based smart specialization strategies identifying key priorities for economic modernization is ambitious, because Ukraine has not yet joined the Smart Specialization Platform. That is why the issue of Ukraine's accedence to the S3 Platform needs to be promptly solved to ensure the country's rise to a qualitatively new level of strategic planning at regional and local levels by 2020.

Milestone by 2017 Summit	**Agricultural development strategies in place in three Partner Countries.** **Continued increase of farmers' participation in business oriented groups/ cooperatives.**
Target by 2020	**At least 15 000 farmers are members of business oriented farmer groups/ cooperatives; at least 1 000 business-oriented farmer groups created to promote better market access.** **Progress in the implementation of agricultural development strategies.**

☑ **Reachability of the Milestone by 2017 Summit:**

The task for Ukraine is realistic, taking into account the effective Strategy for Development of the Agrarian Sector of Economy until 2020 as well as the drafted Unified Comprehensive Strategy for Development of Agriculture and Rural Territories for 2015-2020. The main challenge is that the sector's development model functioning in Ukraine differs from what is envisaged by the priority. In particular this is related to the issues of incentives for farmers before implementing European cooperation models.

↪ **Achievability and ambitiousness of the Target by 2020:**

The task is ambitious, since the abovementioned strategic documents do not contain any target indicators (on farmers,

farms, cooperatives, etc.) that would be in accord with the target by 2020. This means that these strategies will require adjustment. The relevance of the task for Ukraine is due to the importance of the agrarian sector for economic development at this stage and the necessity to transform the current model for its approximation to European principles. The target of progress in the implementation of agricultural development strategies, though objective and expedient, will require clear markers to be defined for the establishment and evaluation of a progress achievement fact.

7

HARMONIZATION OF DIGITAL MARKETS

👤 **Maksym Koryavets,** Polissya Foundation for International and Regional Studies, UNP Working Group 2

Milestone by 2017 Summit	Commitment by Partners to establish an independent national regulatory authority for electronic communications (if not in place). Commitment by Partners to coordinate on spectrum issues, among them and with the EU. Feasibility study completed on a harmonised approach to roaming pricing and reduced roaming tariffs among the Partners – options and measures proposed; commitment by Partners to work towards a common international roaming space among them (including work towards a roaming agreement). Commitment by Partners to develop national Broadband strategies (if not in place), and adopt relevant EU acquis and best practices facilitating Broadband development.
Target by 2020	Independent national regulatory authority for electronic communications in place in at least five Partner Countries. Coordinated national spectrum strategies among the Partners and with the EU. Harmonised roaming pricing and reduced roaming tariffs among the Partners. Ongoing roaming discussions with the EU10. Roll-out of national Broadband strategies by all Partners, in line with similar EU strategies.

☑ **Reachability of the Milestone by 2017 Summit:**

Only part of the tasks is quite realistic by this deadline. Ukraine's commitment to establish an independent regulatory authority for electronic communications is confirmed by Draft Law of Ukraine No. 3549-1 "On electronic communications." However, the process of its adoption was postponed for a number of reasons, both political and technical.

A study on a harmonized approach to roaming pricing and reduced roaming tariffs among Partner Countries has been already launched in Ukraine. Therefore, there is a likelihood of reaching the milestone by 2017; however, everything depends on how intensively relevant authorities will work. The development of an adequate national broadband strategy is unlikely over the short timespan left before the 2017 EaP Summit.

🔄 **Achievability and ambitiousness of the Target by 2020:**

Overall, the target is formulated ambitiously, although should be made more specific and complemented as to the expected results. The major challenges on this way are the necessity to maximally approximate national legislation of Ukraine to that of the EU and the weak electronic communication infrastructure comparing to such infrastructure in the EU. Rolled-out spectrum and broadband strategies cannot be considered an ambitious target by the end of 2020. On the other hand, harmonized roaming pricing and reduced roaming tariffs are quite achievable target by the end of

2020, because the harmonization of telecommunication services pricing should be the next step in the Ukraine-EU convergence after the visa liberalization.

✎ Comments and suggestions:

The target by 2020 should provide for the following goals: (i) full harmonization of national legislation on electronic communication with Directives 2002/19/EC, 2002/20/EC, 2002/21/EC and 2002/22/EC; and (ii) spectrum coordination system in line with general principles of the EU developed in Ukraine and the EaP region. To realize the idea of unified roaming tariffs at the Partner Countries level, "plans on unification and reduction of charges for calls between EU countries and EaP countries" should be nationally developed and enacted, providing for complete cancellation of roaming charges and pricing of roaming calls at the level of national retail price (just this must become Ukraine's ambitious target by 2020). The Joint Staff Working Document neither mentions development of infrastructure for the spread of broadband Internet access nor sets corresponding goals. The development and implementation of National Broadband Strategies/Plans are utterly important for liquidating the digital gap between Member States and Partner Countries. At the current stage, we should set targets by 2020 just in the digital infrastructure development (estimate necessary volumes of telecommunication networks construction and investments, while identifying a financing mechanism, decide on ways of implementing models of increased investment appeal of broadband networks infrastructure, etc.).

Milestone by 2017 Summit	**Commitment by Partners to adopt the Trust Services part of the eIDAS11, the Regulation, the General Data Protection Regulation and other relevant EU acquis (if not in place).** **Commitment by Partners to develop national CERTs12 (if not in place), in line with EU best practices.**
Target by 2020	**Pilot in place for interoperable cross border eSignature and regional framework for cross border eServices for businesses among Partners and with the EU in place.** **Fully operational national CERTs in all Partners in place, linked to EU CERTs.**

☑ Reachability of the Milestone by 2017 Summit:

Fulfillment of these tasks before the deadline is realistic, provided the prompt development of regulations under the drafted but not yet passed acts of legislation on electronic identification and electronic transactions (e.g., draft Law of Ukraine "On electronic trust services"). Moreover, institutional reorganizations/innovations will be necessary in the system of state authorities to address the development of cross-border eSignature systems and eServices for businesses in order to ensure technical feasibility of corresponding legislative changes. Laying the foundations for establishment of an experience-sharing platform on cyber issues with the EU is quite possible during the 2017 EaP Summit.

↪ Achievability and ambitiousness of the Target by 2020:

The tasks and goals by 2020 are relevant and ambitiously formulated but should be detailed as to important prerequisites for their execution.

✎ Comments and suggestions:

Add the following to the target by 2020: (i) joining and permanently cooperating with EU project STORK 2.0 (Secure idenTity acrOss boRders linKed 2.0); and (ii) development, enactment and implementation in Partner Countries of roadmaps for improvement of their legal framework to ensure compatibility of electronic signatures on the cross-border scale. In the context of cybersecurity, the medium-term tasks should be complimented with the following two, which are as important: (i) carrying out an independent expert examination on the conformity of national legislations in the EaP region with the European standards of personal data protection in the Internet; and (ii) development of roadmaps for unification of legislation on digital networks protection.

Milestone by 2017 Summit	**eTrade study completed – regional recommendations and national roadmaps issued for harmonised eTrade systems among the Partners, in line with EU norms.** **Commitment by Partners to adopt eCommerce, eCustoms and eLogistics-related EU acquis.** **eLogistics study completed –feasibility analysis done and recommendations issued for implementing a Digital Transport Corridor between the Baltic and the Black Sea.**
Target by 2020	**Harmonised legislation for eCommerce, eCustoms and eLogistics among Partners and with the EU.** **Pilot in place for cross-border eTrade among Partners and with the EU.** **Pilot in place for a Digital Transport Corridor between the Baltic and the Black Sea.**

☑ Reachability of the Milestone by 2017 Summit:

Ukraine's commitment to approve the EU's eCommerce standards is partially realized through the adoption of Law No. 675-19 "On electronic commerce." On the other hand, it would be too early to assert that Ukraine has completely undertaken to harmonize its legal framework in this area with EU legislation, since the adoption of the said Law does not guarantee the proper implementation of key infrastructure and information services (creation of such preconditions for full-scale commitment before the end of 2017 is unlikely). At present, it is unknown if any comprehensive eTrade and eLogistics studies are conducted in Ukraine, therefore the development of recommendations and national roadmaps in these areas before the end of 2017 is unlikely.

↪ Achievability and ambitiousness of the Target by 2020:

The target is set forth quite ambitiously and is relevant for Ukraine. In this context, national legislation in the first place must be harmonized with Directive 2009/110/EC on electronic money, Directive 2007/64/EC on payment services and Directive (EU) 2015/2366 on EU-wide payment services. As important will be to create legislative preconditions (for provision of electronic services within the framework of Ukrainian eCustoms cooperation with the EU) and institutional preconditions (develop a concept and popularize the institute of eLogistics Competence Centers).

✎ Comments and suggestions:

To build a cross-border eTrade system, the challenges associated with implementation of key infrastructure and necessary information services need to be surmounted. The Joint Staff Working Document pays insufficient attention to eTrade crime prevention: a system to fight counterfeiting and pirating linked to the EU's similar central system COPIS (in accordance with Regulation (EU) 608/2013) have to be developed at the level of each of the EaP region's countries, and an EaP regional online dispute settlement system (complete with a special web platform) developed and implemented.

Milestone by 2017 Summit	**Commitment by all Partners to develop and implement national digital skills strategies, in line with similar EU strategies. This includes commitment by the Partners to establish national coalitions for digital jobs (if not in place), based on the EU's digital skills & jobs coalition.** **National coalitions for digital jobs established by at least two Partner Countries, based on the EU's digital skills & jobs coalition.**
Target by 2020	**National digital skills strategies formulated and implemented by all Partners, in line with similar EU strategies.** **National coalitions for digital jobs established by all Partners, based on the EU's digital skills &jobs coalition.**

☑ **Reachability of the Milestone by 2017 Summit:**

No national coalition for digital jobs (based on the EU's digital skills & jobs coalition) has been established in Ukraine so far. Even if this process begins in 2017, there will be no ponderable positive effect on digital knowledge, skills and jobs in Ukraine in the near future.

↪ **Achievability and ambitiousness of the Target by 2020:**

The Target is formulated not ambitiously enough and should be complemented. The development of a national strategy and establishment of coalitions will not necessarily be an indicator of real achievements in a country's digital skills area. Therefore, more specific goals are needed, ones that will lead to positive advances when achieved.

✎ **Comments and suggestions:**

A system of accessible-to-all online and offline digital literacy courses in line with the European framework of digital competences (DigiComp 2.0) should be developed and implemented in Ukraine on an initiative of the Government. In addition, a methodology should be developed to measure their efficacy and implement independent certification for digital skills matching labor market needs (desirably, common for the EaP countries). A similar methodology (also common for the EaP countries) should be also developed for evaluation of the implementation of national digital skills strategies.

Milestone by 2017 Summit	**Information Communication Technology (ICT) innovation and start-up ecosystems study completed: needs assessment for all Partners done; regional recommendations issued and national roadmaps proposed for promoting ecosystem development in the Partner Countries.** **Mapping of Partners' ICT digital innovation ecosystem stakeholders, including start-ups and those in ICT research.** **Partners' stakeholders' information incorporated in relevant Start-up Europe Networks and online platforms.**
Target by 2020	**Well-structured ICT research, innovation and start-up ecosystems in place for all Partners.** **Established connections among Partners' innovation ecosystems and with similar EU ecosystems, including via the EaP Connect infrastructure and services.**

☑ **Reachability of the Milestone by 2017 Summit:**

The milestone cannot be adequately reached before the 2017 Summit, since it would require a profound study in order to identify and understand the potential of elements/participants of the ICT research, innovation and start-up ecosystem in Ukraine. There is no information whatsoever even that such a study has been launched in Ukraine, whereas its completion would require considerable time.

↪ **Achievability and ambitiousness of the Target by 2020:**

The target is not clearly formulated and is too ambitious, taking into account the current situation in corresponding spheres of the EaP countries.

✎ **Comments and suggestions:**

Achievement of these goals will require a profound study in order to identify and understand the potential of digital innovation ecosystem existing in Ukraine and EaP countries. Another challenge will be the permanent need of financial and human resources to build ecosystems. To create conditions for building well-structured ICT research, innovation and start-up ecosystems, it would be expedient to develop, at the governmental level, national programs for supporting the development and European integration of innovation digital ecosystems. Launching an EU initiative (program) on development and support of digital innovation ecosystems in the EaP region within next three years would be relevant.

Milestone by 2017 Summit	**Commitment by Partners to adopt eHealth-related EU acquis (if not in place).** **eHealth study completed -regional recommendations and national roadmaps issued for harmonised eHealth systems among the Partners, in line with EU norms.**
Target by 2020	**Harmonised legislation for eHealth among the Partners and with the EU.** **Pilot in place for cross-border eHealth services among Partners and with the EU.**

☑ Reachability of the Milestone by 2017 Summit:

In late 2016, the Health Ministry of Ukraine signed a Memorandum of Cooperation in the creation of an eHealth system in Ukraine with a number of governmental and nongovernmental organizations. Among other things, the Memorandum provides for an eHealth development roadmap that refers to relevant basic legislation and best practices in the EU. This provides preconditions on the part of Ukraine to develop recommendations and effective roadmaps for harmonization of eHealth systems among Partner Countries in line with EU norms.

↪ Achievability and ambitiousness of the Target by 2020:

The target is formulated quite ambitiously for Ukraine, and in that is quite achievable, given the current trends. Major challenges on the way of its achievement will be the necessity to have expert support in the process of the harmonized legislation development as well as the lack of required amount of financial resources.

✎ Comments and suggestions:

As important and relevant will be complete technical and technological harmonization of eHealth services with similar services in European countries. To this end, a strategic document / action plan should be drafted by 2020 that, among other things, would identify ways to attract international financial assistance for implementation.

✚ Additional EaP goals:

Taking into account the pressing need of developing eGovernment and establishing eDemocracy, the governments of Partner Countries also have to create a digital ecosystem of eGovernance development. This ecosystem would integrate activities in all spheres of the state in a unified information space: institutes of the government, economy, finances and social sphere. The percentage of central authorities integrated in the general electronic platform (100% by 2020) must become a guidepost of success in each of the EaP countries.

8

TRADE AND DCFTA IMPLEMENTATION

Veronika Movchan, Institute for Economic Research and Policy Consulting, UNP Working Group 2

Ukraine is able to achieve the targets by 2020, the more so that they are set not in quantitative but in qualitative indicators.

Milestone by 2017 Summit	Preliminary data showing a positive trend in total intra-regional trade (i.e. among EaP Partners).

Factual analysis shared with Partner Countries and Member States on Eastern Partners' potential to enhance trade and economic integration with the EU and within the EaP region. |
| **Target by 2020** | Continuation of positive trend in total intra-regional trade (i.e. between Partner Countries). |

☑ Reachability of the Milestone by 2017 Summit:

Earlier data demonstrates that trade between Ukraine and the rest of EaP countries is on the rise. In 2016, trade in commodities between Ukraine and other Partner Countries climbed 5% from 2015, driven by a 13% increase in import. In the first four months of 2017, export from Ukraine to EaP countries grew by 37%, and import, by 28%. These figures exceed the pace of Ukraine' general export and import growth. There has also been a gradual increase in the number of studies dealing with evaluation of the potential for expanding trade an integrating with the EU within the region.

↪ Achievability and ambitiousness of the Target by 2020:

The target by 2020 is achievable. We can expect that trade among Partner Countries will continue to grow. It will be backed in particular by the implementation of the pan-Euro-Mediterranean preferential rules of origin between Ukraine, Georgia and Moldova, which will encourage the formation of new chains of production. For the countries that have a DCFTA with the EU, their regulatory practices will be approximating. In March 2017, the GUAM members (Georgia, Ukraine, Armenia and Moldova) signed a Protocol between the customs administrations of GUAM Member States on mutual recognition of certain results of customs procedures regarding goods and vehicles moved across the state borders of GUAM Member States, which is going to facilitate trade barriers reduction. On the other hand, there are challenges related to possible emergence of new trade restrictions between countries of the region, thus making the target quite ambitious.

Milestone by 2017 Summit	Preliminary data reflecting a general positive trend in total trade between Partner Countries and the EU, and in particular between DCFTA countries and the EU.
Target by 2020	Continuation of a positive trend in total trade between Partner Countries and EU, and in particular between DCFTA countries and the EU.

☑ **Reachability of the Milestone by 2017 Summit:**
Like in the case of export, the milestone has already been reached (trade in goods and services with the EU grew by 5.6% over 2016 and has been continuing to grow in 2017). This allows us to presume a high probability of further trade expansion, provided Ukraine's real GDP resumes growing. The EU is presently an important source of capital goods as well as a supplier of intermediate goods, which are required, in particular, to produce commodities intended for export to the EU.

↪ **Achievability and ambitiousness of the Target by 2020:**
The increase in the trade volume with the EU as a whole, i.e., both export and import, is a realistic target. Its relevance is weakened by partial overlapping with the previous target, although stepping up trade in general is an important evidence of deepened economic relations between countries.

Milestone by 2017 Summit	**Preliminary data showing a positive trend in the number of companies (notably SMEs) from Partner Countries exporting to the EU, in particular from DCFTA countries.**
Target by 2020	**Strengthening of the positive trend in the number of companies (notably SMEs) from the Partner Countries exporting to the EU, increased, in particular from the DCFTA countries.**

☑ **Reachability of the Milestone by 2017 Summit:**
According to data from the State Statistics Committee for the year 2016, export of goods to the EU grew by 3.7%, and export of services, by 0.8%. In 2017, the export growth accelerated (21.4% over first four months). We can expect higher rates of this acceleration further on, provided the general economic growth resumes.

↪ **Achievability and ambitiousness of the Target by 2020:**
The target is positively realistic and is one of key expected results of the DCFTA establishment. It is also relevant, since its achievement will bolster the economic growth.

✎ **Comments and suggestions:**
Stating a goal as export growth without setting quantitative indicators for such growth makes it not too ambitious. However, in view of numerous external factors that cannot be influenced and the need to compare several economies, such a formulation seems to be justified.

Milestone by 2017 Summit	**Preliminary data reflecting a general positive trend in total exports from Partner Countries to the EU, in particular from DCFTA countries.**
Target by 2020	**Enhancement of a positive trend in total exports from Partner Countries to the EU increased, in particular from DCFTA countries.**

☑ **Reachability of the Milestone by 2017 Summit:**
An analysis on the autonomous trade preferences and their impact on Ukrainian export showed an increase in the number of companies that entered the EU market. The expansion of the circle of exporters is also witnessed by the enlarged list of Ukrainian companies to whom the EU granted permission to export products of animal origin. Therefore, the milestone is realistic.

↪ **Achievability and ambitiousness of the Target by 2020:**
The target is relevant and quite ambitious, since only about 10% of all companies in the country usually engage in export activities, SMEs being less inclined to export than large-scale companies do. On the other hand, the previous assessments demonstrate positive dynamics.

✎ **Comments and suggestions:**
An increase in the economy monopolization level can become the main obstacle for achievement of the goal. A more effective competition policy, which is one of important commitments in the DCFTA framework, must help overcome this obstacle.

Milestone by 2017 Summit	**Increasing number of entities from DCFTA countries authorised to export agricultural/food products to the EU, following the adoption and start of implementation of the Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) strategies/roadmaps by the DCFTA countries.**
Target by 2020	**Further increase in number of companies authorised by EU SPS authorities to exports to its market, having met the regulatory and inspection conditions to do so.** **Recognition by the EU of food safety measures for the sectors/products that will fully comply with EU acquis and feature enforcement by inspection structures in the DCFTA countries, with the aim (if conditions are met) of initiating the process of determination of equivalence of relevant measures.**

☑ Reachability of the Milestone by 2017 Summit:

The milestone – an increase in the number of products and companies authorized by the EU to export to its market (inasmuch as livestock products are concerned) – may be considered reached. This list was constantly expanding during 2014-2016. In pursuance of its commitments within the DCFTA framework, Ukraine has also approved a plan for harmonization of its legislation on sanitary and phytosanitary measures (it is also fulfillment of the seventh milestone of the EaP Joint Staff Working Document on the DCFTA). However, these two results are not directly related, since the authorization of individual companies to export to the EU market has resulted from reform efforts of nearly 10 last years.

↪ Achievability and ambitiousness of the Target by 2020:

This target is very important, because it is just the trade in foods where trade barriers are highest. The situation is more complicated with the development of equivalent food safety systems. The commitments on harmonization under the Strategy are very complicated in both their contents and their volume, expecting harmonization with over 250 regulations of the EU. Therefore, in view of the ambitiousness of the target, there is a high likelihood that the Strategy implementation will last longer than it is planned now. Still, for certain products such equivalence can be achieved by 2020.

Milestone by 2017 Summit	**Positive trend in stock/inflow of Foreign Direct Investments (FDIs) in Partner Countries as a result of improving investment climate and business environment.**
Target by 2020	**Strengthening of FDIs stock/inflow in Partner Countries due to successful reforms in creating transparent, predictable market economy.**

☑ Reachability of the Milestone by 2017 Summit:

The FDI inflow in Ukraine remains unstable, not allowing us to say of reaching the milestone. According to the National Bank of Ukraine, the FDI net inflow in 2016 increased, totaling $3.3 billion. However, it sharply slowed down in first five months of 2017 to $0.5 billion as a result of the completed recapitalization of the banking system. Nevertheless, the EU was and continues to be the main foreign investor in Ukraine.

Still, despite a number of important reforms, the country's business environment is scored quite law. Ukraine is ranked 80th by the Doing Business 2017, staying behind the rest of EaP participant countries.

↪ Achievability and ambitiousness of the Target by 2020:

Ensuring stable and high FDI inflow remains very relevant and ambitious target for Ukraine. An important contribution to its achievement can be accession to the Regional Convention on pan-Euro-Mediterranean preferential rules of origin, what can encourage so-called export platform FDI (FDI in export-oriented production). By now, Ukraine has already applied but the accession procedures have not yet been completed. Ukraine is also in FTA negotiations with two participant countries of the Convention, namely Turkey and Israel.

However, the achievement of this target will only become possible if the economic incentives created owing to the DCFTA are complemented with successful reforms inside the country. First and foremost, it is the complex judicial reform, which will enable effective protection of ownership rights in Ukraine. Also extremely important is the fight against corruption, which is presently going, at a varying extent of success, in two key directions. On the one hand, it aims at narrowing opportunities for corruption through deregulation, eGovernance, open registers, online procurement, etc. On the other hand, it focuses on development of a system of anticorruption institutions, which still lacks a specialized anticorruption court.

Milestone by 2017 Summit	**Adoption and start of implementation of the public procurement roadmaps, aiming at the creation of a well-functioning, competitive, accountable and transparent procurement system in DCFTA countries.**
Target by 2020	**Increased market access opening on reciprocal basis in public procurement in accordance with the staging committed in the DCFTAs.**

☑ Reachability of the Milestone by 2017 Summit:
Ukraine has made very significant progress in this area, so the milestone may be considered reached. Ukraine has adopted a roadmap for public procurement reform, passed a new law on public procurement and implemented the mandatory online procurement system *ProZorro*.

↪ Achievability and ambitiousness of the Target by 2020:
The target is realistic, if we consider the mutual opening of market access in accordance with the staging specified in the DCFTA. It is also relevant, because it means access to huge markets that are typically closed for external competition. And it is quite ambitious, too.

Milestone by 2017 Summit	**Further progress in alignment of technical regulations and standards and related conformity assessment rules to the EU system in order to ensure the industrial products safety, hence better use market opportunities created by the tariff liberalization provided by the DCFTAs.**
Target by 2020	**Achieving the state of regulatory approximation and institutional capacity building (including market surveillance) in priority sectors allowing to negotiate the Agreements on Conformity Assessment and Acceptance of Industrial Products (ACAA).**

☑ Reachability of the Milestone by 2017 Summit:
Ukraine has already done a lot in this area, and so the milestone may be considered reached. Horizontal legislation has been harmonized, and significant progress has been made in the alignment of technical regulations. Moreover, the obsolete GOST standards were cancelled, and European standards actively adopted, thus having the percentage of Ukrainian standards harmonized with international standards brought up to 60%. A new market surveillance authority has been also launched.

↪ Achievability and ambitiousness of the Target by 2020:
The target is ambitious enough, taking into account the significant needs that still exist in capacity building and improvement of institutions involved in industrial products safety assurance as well as in further work on ensuring the identity of technical regulations. At the same time, the target is realistic, since Ukraine has already applied to the EC for evaluation of the progress made and possible negotiations on the ACAA.

✎ Comments and suggestions:
To spur the technical regulation reform, it is important for Ukraine to receive technical assistance from the EU addressing the issues of legislation harmonization as well as institutional capacity building and physical infrastructure development.

Milestone by 2017 Summit	Setting up Authorised Economic Operator (AEO) programme, in particular in DCFTA countries.
Target by 2020	Implementation of compatible AEO programmes in DCFTA countries allowing further facilitation of customs procedures in mutual trade and a dialogue on mutual recognition of the AEO programmes.

☑ Reachability of the Milestone by 2017 Summit:
The Customs Code of Ukraine envisages the introduction of AEO institution, though it has never been made operational. At present, there is a bill in the Parliament of Ukraine intended to improve the AEO operating mechanism in line with the EU's rules and practices.

↻ Achievability and ambitiousness of the Target by 2020:
The likelihood that the AEO institution will start working after 2018 or even earlier is very high. Like in the preceding case, the target's relevance is defined by a possibility to reduce the border crossing costs and thus bolster trade, increasing chances for achievement of other goals, too.

✎ Comments and suggestions:
Formally, Ukraine has three years (i.e., before the end of 2018) to fulfill its commitment to implement the AEO institution. However, launching it as soon as possible to simplify cross-border movement of goods is in the best interests of Ukrainian businesses.

Milestone by 2017 Summit	Advancement of approximation/incorporation of provisions of the Convention of 1987 on a common transit procedure.
Target by 2020	If appropriate, accession to the Convention on a common transit procedure, and thus simplification of the customs and transit formalities in trade between the EU and DCFTA Partners and among the latter.

☑ Reachability of the Milestone by 2017 Summit:
The milestone may be considered reached, since a bill on amending the Customs Code of Ukraine to bring the transit procedures in line with the Convention of 1987 on a common transit procedure was introduced into Parliament.

↻ Achievability and ambitiousness of the Target by 2020:
Ukraine is somewhat behind the schedule as per its commitments under the Association Agreement because these legislative changes were expected to take place within a year after the launch of DCFTA. Nevertheless, this target will be probably achieved. Its relevance is related to expected reduction of the border crossing costs, which now exceed expenditures on import duties.

✎ Comments and suggestions:
The target is ambitious enough in its current wording and does not need any additional adjustment.

Milestone by 2017 Summit	Making progress on approximation/incorporation of provisions of the Convention of 1987 on the Simplification of Formalities in Trade in Goods.
Target by 2020	If appropriate, accession to the Convention on the Simplification of Formalities in Trade in Goods that would allow simplifying the application of the common transit procedure between the EU and DCFTA Partners and among the latter.

☑ Reachability of the Milestone by 2017 Summit:

Like it was with the previous milestone above regarding the Convention on a common transit procedure, this one may be considered reached, since a bill on amending the Customs Code of Ukraine to bring the transit procedures in line with the Convention of 1987 on the Simplification of Formalities in Trade in Goods was introduced into Parliament in late 2016.

↪ Achievability and ambitiousness of the Target by 2020:

Ukraine is somewhat behind the schedule as per its commitments because these legislative changes were expected to take place within a year after the launch of DCFTA. Nevertheless, this target will be probably achieved. It is relevant since the costs of crossing the Ukrainian border now exceed import duties effective in the country. We can expect that the simplification of customs formalities will encourage trade with all partners of Ukraine, including those in the EU and EaP countries.

➕ Additional goals:

At present, this deliverable's milestones by 2017 Summit and targets by 2020 deal with important aspects of relations between Ukraine and the EU featuring the dynamics of their economic ties, such as FDI, export and import and number of enterprises that are granted access to the EU market of products of animal origin, as well as certain aspects of legislative approximation, including public procurement, SPS harmonization, accession to the Convention on a common transit procedure and introduction of AEOs. It looks expedient to add a goal on improving the internal business environment, namely competition and protection of intellectual property rights. Corresponding goals could include reduction of economy monopolization for competition and increase in patents or other IPR registrations, growth of hi-tech exports or other indicators of increase in innovation activity in a country.

PRIORITY II:
STRENGTHENING INSTITUTIONS AND GOOD GOVERNANCE

9

RULE OF LAW AND ANTICORRUPTION MECHANISMS

👤 **Viktor Taran,** Eidos Center for Political Studies and Analysis, UNP Working Group 1

Milestone by 2017 Summit	Progress towards an effective system of declarations of assets and conflicts of interest, i.e. - adoption of the required legislative and institutional framework, including verification mechanisms and dissuasive sanctions against false declarations; ▸ launch, publication and verification of easily searchable public registries of interests and assets in at least three Partner Countries. Steps taken to implement GRECO recommendations on political party funding, based on the outcome of the third round of GRECO evaluations.

Target by 2020	Effective systems of declaration of assets and conflict of interest developed and implemented for at least Members of Parliament (MPs), politicians and high ranking officials developed and implemented in at least four Partner Countries, including:
	
	  ▸ an electronic, easily searchable public registry of interests and assets;
	  ▸ effective verification mechanism;
	  ▸ dissuasive sanctions.
	
	Steps taken to implement GRECO recommendations on the prevention of corruption in respect of members of parliament, judges and prosecutors, based on the outcome of the fourth round of evaluations GRECO.

☑ Reachability of the Milestone by 2017 Summit:

On Sep. 1, 2016, an electronic declaration system was launched in pursuance of the Law of Ukraine "On corruption prevention." A key question, however, was not just the system's formal establishment but its smooth functioning. Unfortunately, the NACP (the newly formed anticorruption institution responsible for running the system) has failed with the task. The system's operation is still unstable – there have been instances when the access to the registry's public section was closed for several days. In addition, the internal procedures of the NACP's operation are also

imperfect. Therefore, we can say that the milestone has been, formally, reached: the electronic declaration registry was launched. Now the main task is to ensure its smooth functioning.

⮕ Achievability and ambitiousness of the Target by 2020:
The target is realistic and, very likely, will be achieved in Ukraine.

✎ Comments and suggestions:
In the context of easily searchable public registries of interests and assets of individuals and legal entities, we would like to point out the following. Presently, Ukraine has a Unified State Registry of Legal Entities and Individual Entrepreneurs, which is open for public access. However, the function of search by beneficiary is not implemented in the registry. In other words, you cannot run a search based on data on an individual – in the public assess mode, search is only possible by data on legal entities. Therefore, it would be relevant to specially focus on this issue in order to achieve maximum results by 2020.

Milestone by 2017 Summit	**Effective progress towards independent specialised anti-corruption bodies in at least three Partner Countries.**
Target by 2020	**Independent specialised high-level anti-corruption bodies fully operational in at least four Partner Countries.** **Track record of investigations and convictions of high-level corruption cases.**

☑ Reachability of the Milestone by 2017 Summit:
Three anticorruption institutions, novel for Ukraine, have been established: the National Agency on Corruption Prevention (NACP), the National Anticorruption Bureau of Ukraine (NABU) and the Specialized Anticorruption Prosecutor's Office (SAPO). The NACP does not have powers to prosecute criminally, just to hold administratively liable. Presently, this body is failing to fulfill its tasks: the e-declaration registry is not trouble-free, not a single full checkup of declaration has been complete, and none of top corruptionists has been called to account. The NABU and SAPO, according to prevailing opinion among experts and society, are more effective anticorruption bodies. Despite some lack of understanding between the leadership of the two bodies in late 2016, today their joint work seems to demonstrate the best performance in the fight against corruption.

⮕ Achievability and ambitiousness of the Target by 2020:
The anticorruption bodies are set up and functioning, both formally and actually. Probably, the main task by 2020 is to ensure their independence – and this is what makes the target ambitious.

✎ Comments and suggestions:
Establishment of an independent anticorruption court must top off the launch of anticorruption institutions in Ukraine, because the current judicial system, thus far, has been unable to bring Ukraine's top corruptionists to account.

Milestone by 2017 Summit	**Effective progress towards the establishment of Offices for the recovery and management of assets (AROs) established in at least three Partner Countries.**
Target by 2020	**Legal framework allowing for the effective seizure, confiscation and management of crime proceeds across the EaP region.** **AROs in place with a track record for identification, freezing, management and confiscation of criminal/unjustified wealth across the EaP region.**

☑ **Reachability of the Milestone by 2017 Summit:**

A number of laws adopted in Ukraine in 2016 made it possible to begin, in December, setting up a National Agency for Recovery and Management of Corrupt Assets. At present, the head of the Agency is selected and call for applications announced to form its team (130 persons will be on the staff). The Agency will look for corrupt assets only at request of law enforcement bodies – investigative, prosecuting and judicial.

↪ **Achievability and ambitiousness of the Target by 2020:**

The target is achievable, provided there are proper supervision and adequate financing. In the State Budget for 2017, UAH 40 million is earmarked for the new Agency; however, no money is envisaged for the development of a registry of arrested assets. The main tasks for next period are to ensure political independence of this institution, staff it with experts, launch its full-scale operation, approve its efficient internal procedures and develop the arrested assets registry.

Milestone by 2017 Summit	**Legal framework against money-laundering in line with the EU's fourth Anti-Money Laundering Directive adopted in at least three Partner Countries.** **Public registries of beneficial ownership of legal entities and legal arrangements developed in at least one Partner Country.**
Target by 2020	**Effective tools for financial investigations are in place, in particular:** ▸ **centralised bank accounts registries;** ▸ **reinforced Financial Intelligence and Investigation Units.** **Public registries of beneficial ownership of legal entities and legal arrangements developed in at least three Partner Countries.**

☑ **Reachability of the Milestone by 2017 Summit:**

The Law "On preventing and counteracting the legalization (laundering) of criminally derived incomes, the financing of terrorism and the financing of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction" is presently effective in Ukraine. Moreover, a Strategy on the development of a system for preventing and counteracting the legalization (laundering) of criminally derived incomes, the financing of terrorism and the financing of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction until 2020 was approved in December 2015. The Strategy includes measures on the implementation of Directive (EU) 2015/849 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the prevention of the use of the financial system for the purposes of money laundering or terrorist financing.

↪ **Achievability and ambitiousness of the Target by 2020:**

Since Ukraine is on its way to European integration, there is no doubt that it will be involved in such large-scale EU initiatives. This is especially so, taking into account the numerous investigations the NABU and the General Prosecutor's Office have launched into the laundering of money from the Ukrainian State Budget abroad. Therefore, the target is realistic and very likely will be achieved by 2020.

✚ Additional EaP goals:

To achieve maximum results by 2020 under "Rule of law and anticorruption mechanisms", a target on setting up an independent Anticorruption Court should be added to the deliverable. Not only civil society activists but also representatives of the newly established anticorruption institutions say of the necessity to create such a court. A corresponding bill has already been drafted and introduced into Parliament but political will to pass it is lacking. This goal is very ambitious and timely for Ukrainian society. The anticorruption court will crown the efforts to develop a powerful system for fighting corruption. Given general unity and a common position (including that of Ukraine's western partners) the goal can be objectively achieved by 2020.

10 IMPLEMENTATION OF KEY JUDICIAL REFORMS

👤 **Roman Kuybida,** Center of Policy and Legal Reform, UNP Working Group 1

Milestone by 2017 Summit	**A transparent and merit-based recruitment of judges and prosecutors adopted in at least two Partner Countries, including:** ▸ **an independent appointing authority;** ▸ **mandatory written exams;** ▸ **initial training.**
Target by 2020	**Track record of transparent and merit-based recruitment and promotion system disaggregated by gender in place in at least three Partner Countries.** **Track record of judges' and prosecutors' performance, as per their career development, in place in at least three Partner Countries.**

☑ **Reachability of the Milestone by 2017 Summit:**

The milestone is partly reachable. Since 2016, legislation has been providing for competitive procedures for taking a position of judge at all courts. The practical testing of the new merit-based recruitment model is going on during the formation of the new Supreme Court and the competition for local courts. The initial training will be organized upon completion of the first stage of the competition for local courts. Actual independence of the recruitment bodies is doubtful, despite the formally transparent procedure for selection of their members. No information is available on involvement of the *TAIEX (Technical Assistance and Information Exchange Instrument of the European Commission)* missions in evaluation of the judges appointment process.

↪ **Achievability and ambitiousness of the Target by 2020:**

The target is achievable and ambitious. Necessary legislation has been adopted and the implementation process is underway. The necessary infrastructure exists (the High Qualification Commission of Judges, the High Council of Justice and the National School of Judges).

✎ **Comments and suggestions:**

TAIEX mission involvement in evaluation of the judges appointment process is required to prove milestone achievement. Good practice of implementing constitutional amendments is required for achievement of the target by 2020. Evaluation of activities is also required.

Milestone by 2017 Summit	**Progress in the adoption of effective disciplinary rules and codes of ethics in line with EU standards for judges and prosecutors.** **Functioning complaint mechanisms accessible to the public adopted in at least three countries. This would be indicated inter alia by the number of disciplinary proceedings initiated and by the number of sanctions pronounced against judges and public prosecutors, in line with European standards.**
Target by 2020	**Track record of reported disciplinary cases, proceedings initiated and convictions in line with EU standards.**

☑ Reachability of the Milestone by 2017 Summit:

The milestone is partly reachable. Necessary legislation adopted. Any person may file a disciplinary complaint. The disciplinary chambers of the High Council of Justice are the disciplinary bodies for judges, and the Qualifying and Disciplinary Commission of Prosecutors (launched in June 2017) is that for prosecutors. The appeals instance for these bodies is the High Council of Justice, which operates under a law that came into effect in January 2017. No information is available on involvement of the TAIEX missions in evaluation of the disciplinary procedures.

↪ Achievability and ambitiousness of the Target by 2020:

Unfortunately, the practice of applying disciplinary procedures, including the new ones, has not yet become a proof of accountability of judges and prosecutors. There is a very strong stereotype in society about solidarity within the judiciary. Having it overcome in three years is a great challenge.

✎ Comments and suggestions:

Although the new disciplinary system formally meets European standards, there is a risk that it will be unable to cope with the huge number of complaints. Another risk is that the complaint handling mechanism predominantly by representatives of the compromised judicial system (according to the formula: majority of judges elected by judges on disciplinary boards) might strengthen solidarity within the system. Therefore, transitional models allowing foreign judges or prosecutors to be on the disciplinary boards and/or giving supervisory functions in the exercise of disciplinary procedures into the hands of NGO representatives are desirable. Renewal of the judiciary and prosecutorial corps based on fair procedures as well as information campaigns in support of their authority can also reduce the number of disciplinary complaints. *TAIEX* missions involvement is required to prove target achievement.

Milestone by 2017 Summit	**Progress in the adoption and implementation of necessary structures, policies and practices to ensure that the principle of access to justice for all (including women, children, the poorest and the most vulnerable) is respected.** **Effective legal aid established in at least two countries, as indicated inter alia by public budget allocated to legal aid and by the number of cases referred to the court for which legal aid was granted.**
Target by 2020	**Improved access to justice in at least three countries, in particular for women, children and the most vulnerable groups, and whenever civil rights or obligations are at issue or criminal charges are to be determined. This would be assessed through the amount of legal aid spent per capita, public access to free legal aid, information mechanisms and special arrangements for vulnerable persons.**

☑ Reachability of the Milestone by 2017 Summit:

There are no special policies to ensure access to justice for all, including women, children and the poorest, at present. On the other hand, a ramified free legal aid system has been developed in Ukraine over recent years, which is efficiently functioning. The significantly raised court fees will remain a barrier for the most vulnerable to go to law. In certain cases, courts may reduce the court costs burden, but it happens rarely.

⤴ Achievability and ambitiousness of the Target by 2020:

The target is achievable and quite ambitious. Although, given the current practices and previous experience, the progress made by 2020 most likely will not be big.

✏ Comments and suggestions:

There is a risk of poverty spreading among population, which, on the one hand, will hamper access to courts, and on the other hand, will make the state increase the financing of aid programs for ensuring access to justice for the poor, legal aid in particular, in order to achieve the target.

Milestone by 2017 Summit	Training of the judiciary ensured in at least two Partner Countries, by approximation of the judicial training practices with the EU standards via strengthening capacities and programmes.
Target by 2020	Comprehensive and effective training of the judiciary on judicial competences and ethics in at least three Partner Countries, demonstrated inter alia by an increase in budget allocated to initial and in-service training. Independent training institutions delivering initial and continuous training to the judiciary, in line with the EU standards and best practices.

☑ Reachability of the Milestone by 2017 Summit:

The National School of Judges of Ukraine provides training to judges, both initial and in the course of career. The School is a beneficiary of international technical assistance projects. The similar institution for prosecutors is a higher education institution, which does not meet European standards for that matter. That is why the milestone will be reached only partly.

⤴ Achievability and ambitiousness of the Target by 2020:

Its realisticity can be assessed depending on the contents of the term "independent training institutions delivering training to the judiciary." If the matter is institutions that function within the judicial of prosecution systems, such institutions already exist. However, if the matter is independent institutions competitively involved in initial and continuous training, then the realisticity of having this implemented in Ukraine looks dubious for the time being.

✏ Comments and suggestions:

The training institution for prosecutors needs to be brought in line with European standards, integrating it with the National School of Judges, if necessary.

Milestone by 2017 Summit	Improvement in the day-to-day administration of courts without undue interference from executive or legislative authorities in at least two Partner Countries, as indicated inter alia by effective electronic judicial case management systems that are able to provide random case allocation and judicial statistics.
Target by 2020	Substantial reduction of the backlog of civil and criminal cases and case disposition time across Partner Countries. Improved enforcement of judgements in civil and administrative cases as well as court decisions' execution according to enforcement timeframe and recovery rates indicators in at least three Partner Countries.

☑ Reachability of the Milestone by 2017 Summit:

No system for electronic judicial process has been implemented so far (just a few courts use one in a test mode). Draft codes of procedure provide for the implementation of electronic judicial process but it is likely to happen next year at the earliest. Automated case allocation was implemented in 2010 but has been many times abused.

As for the judicial statistics, it is maintained concurrently in both the paper and electronic forms and posted on "The Judiciary of Ukraine" portal. However, this statistics is not linked to statistical data of the investigation and prosecution bodies and the statistics on execution of judgments. Therefore, it is safe to say that the milestone will be reached by the EaP Summit just partly.

⤴ Achievability and ambitiousness of the Target by 2020:

Given the Ukrainian realities, the target is highly ambitious. It is practically achievable, although the progress made by 2020 most likely will not be big. The judgment execution situation in Ukraine is very bad. However, the gradual introduction of private executors since 2017 can accelerate solution of this problem. The biggest risk for the achievement of the above goals is the prevalence of informal, often corrupt, practices of influence, which it is difficult to eradicate without significant renewal of the judiciary and prosecutorial corps.

✎ Comments and suggestions:

It is important to ensure the implementation of prosecution reform in order to depoliticize the mechanism of Prosecutor General appointment (including amendments to the Constitution).

11 IMPLEMENTATION OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION REFORM

👤 **Volodymyr Kupriy,** CCC Creative Center, UNP Working Group 1

Milestone by 2017 Summit	**Principles of Public Administration presented across the EaP region.**
Target by 2020	**At least three Partner Countries upgraded or adopted their PAR strategies in line with the Principles of Public Administration.**

☑ Reachability of the Milestone by 2017 Summit:

As of 2017, the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine has approved a Public Administration Reform Strategy, of which structure corresponds to the Principles of Public Administration developed by *SIGMA (Support for Improvement in Governance and Management)*. According to the action plan on the Strategy implementation, exhaustive assessment of the public administration situation will be carried out in the first quarter of 2018 in line with the Principles of Public Administration. This benchmark assessment will allow the Government to obtain recommendations for both revising the Strategy itself and responding to current challenges. Thus, the milestone is relevant and meets the current needs of implementing the massive public administration reform.

↪ Achievability and ambitiousness of the Target by 2020:

Revision of the Public Administration Reform Strategy based on findings of the assessment conducted by SIGMA experts on the public administration current status will be quite achievable by 2020. The Government of Ukraine demonstrated its willingness and interest in that.

Milestone by 2017 Summit	**Successful launch of major Public Administration Programme in Ukraine.** **Civil service laws assessed in one-two Partner Countries.**
Target by 2020	**Civil service laws led to a de-politicised civil service in at least two Partner Countries, including through improved merit-based and transparent recruitment and promotion.**

☑ Reachability of the Milestone by 2017 Summit:

The new Law of Ukraine "On civil service," developed with active participation of SIGMA experts and Ukrainian civil society and expert community, came into effect in May 2016. In April 2017, Parliament passed a new law on local government service. According to experts, both laws on the whole comply with the Principles of Public Administration. The public administration reform has begun, although the pace of its implementation is unsatisfactory. Thus, in general, the milestone has been reached.

↪ Achievability and ambitiousness of the Target by 2020:

The following main achievements resulting from the adoption of the Civil Service Law are noticeable: political and administrative positions are clearly delimited; positions of state secretaries at ministries are established; and civil service positions are filled competitively. Moreover, top-level civil servants are prohibited from being members of political parties, whereas other civil servants are prohibited from occupying positions in the governing bodies

of political parties. The purpose of these bans is to ensure the principle of political impartiality of civil service. The formation of next Government based on results of next elections will show if these achievements are sustainable. The achievements need to be built up.

✐ Comments and suggestions:

In view of the above, we would recommend making the target by 2020 for Ukraine more specific, namely: "Increased strategic capacity of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine and improved methodology of state policy making that takes into account the Principles of Public Administration."

Milestone by 2017 Summit	Citizens' engagement for better policies and services increased in line with the Open Partnership agendas in at least two Partner Countries.
Target by 2020	Accountability and openness of state administration strengthened in at least three Partner Countries: ▸ access to Information Laws adopted/amended and implemented in at least one country; ▸ accessible, more service-oriented administrations in place, also through e-gov. services and one-stop-shops in one-two Partner Countries.

☑ Reachability of the Milestone by 2017 Summit:

Owing to the implementation of the law on access to public information, all necessary conditions have been created in Ukraine for citizens to obtain information that is in possession of state authorities and local governments. A minimum legal framework has been developed for citizen participation in the state policy making and implementation. An open data system has been implemented, which ensures free access of citizens to key statistical and financial data. However, the issue of transparency and openness of the state policy making process is still a significant challenge. Within the implementation of the Open Government Partnership initiative, measures are taken to develop eDemocracy.

↪ Achievability and ambitiousness of the Target by 2020:

The existing forms and mechanisms of citizens' engagement are mostly ineffective and do not ensure real participation of citizens. Implementing public consultations in the state policy making and implementation process, which would be in line European and democratic standards, is extraordinarily relevant for Ukraine. Thus, considering the abovementioned, we should say that the targets by 2020, though relevant, need adjustment.

✐ Comments and suggestions:

We suggest mentioning that, as far as Ukraine is concerned, it is expected that a law will be adopted that will form a proper legal framework for implementing public consultations in the state policy making and implementation process and set up minimum standards for organizing and conducting such consultations, reflecting corresponding European standards.

Milestone by 2017 Summit	**Communication and dialogue with non-state actors improved, aimed at reinforcing transparency and accountability in economic governance including via Citizens Budgets, budgetary governance, internal and external performance audits in at least two Partner Countries.**
Target by 2020	**Decisions taken on the changes required to approximate national governance with EU standards related to economic governance, including via reinforced budget oversight, fiscal rules and councils, and medium-term budgets, in at least two Partner Countries.**

☑ **Reachability of the Milestone by 2017 Summit:**

The implementation of participation budgets is gaining popularity in Ukraine. Since 2016, 47 cities and united territorial communities have implemented the participation budget mechanism in practice. An online platform Public Project has been created and used in the implementation of this mechanism. The public also has access to information on the use of public money via the Unified State Portal of Open Data and the Official Portal of Public Finances and thus is able to monitor the spending at various levels. However, the implementation of performance audit is still a significant challenge for state authorities and local governments.

🔁 **Achievability and ambitiousness of the Target by 2020:**

Taking into account the achieved results, we should recognize the relevance of the target by 2020 inasmuch as it concerns the approximation of national governance with EU standards related to economic governance.

Milestone by 2017 Summit	**At least one Partner Country revises its statistical law and adopts it, in accordance with the «Generic Law on Official Statistics».**
Target by 2020	**At least four Partner Countries have revised their statistical laws in accordance with the «Generic Law on Official Statistics».** **Increased availability and quality of statistical information to serve better transparency in the decision-making process.**

☑ **Reachability of the Milestone by 2017 Summit:**

Ukraine has its own Official Statistics Development Strategy until 2017. One of its priorities is to harmonize Ukrainian legislation on statistics and allied areas of activities with corresponding EU standards and legal norms. The Government has defined an action plan on the implementation of a number of EU statistical regulations, as envisaged within the implementation of the Association Agreement. In pursuance of the AA, the State Statistics Service drafted a bill "On amending certain laws of Ukraine that regulate state statistical activities," which was introduced into Parliament in May 2016 and registered under No. 4584. The bill is currently at the stage of being put on the agenda for consideration in the first reading (the last attempt to put it on the agenda was made in March 2017). It should be mentioned, however, that the Parliamentary Committee on European Integration in July 2016 found out that this draft is not in line with EU law, in particular Principle 1 "Professional Independence" of European Statistics Code of Practice.

In 2016, European experts carried out Global Assessment of the National Statistical System of Ukraine for its conformity vis-à-vis European norms and standards. The assessment structure inter alia provides for an overview of the system in relation to the principles of the European Statistics Code of Practice, the aspects of organization, structure and coordination, as well as the coherence with sectoral and multisectoral areas of statistics.

Taking into account the specificity of the autumn 2017 session of Parliament, we can hardly expect that bill 4584 will be passed at least in the first reading. Therefore, the task to revise the own legal framework remains relevant.

🔁 **Achievability and ambitiousness of the Target by 2020:**

In 2016, the Conference of European Statisticians approved the Generic Law on Official Statistics with active participation of Ukraine. Bringing Ukrainian legislation in line with this generic law is still one of Ukraine's priorities in the field of statistics.

✏️ Comments and suggestions:

We recommend keeping work on modernization of domestic legislation on statistical activities among goals for implementation.

12

SECURITY

👤 **Vitaliy Martynyuk,** Center for Global Studies «Strategy XXI», UNP Working Group 1

Milestone by 2017 Summit	Advance possibilities of cooperation between key EU agencies in the fight against organized crime and Partner Countries.
Target by 2020	Improved capacity of Partner Countries in combatting organized crime.

☑ Reachability of the Milestone by 2017 Summit:

Although "advance possibilities" is a blurred milestone, it may be considered done by Ukraine. Since 2010, Ukraine has been cooperating with Europol – under the Agreement on Strategic Cooperation between Ukraine and Europol, which was then replaced by the Agreement on Operational and Strategic Co-operation between Ukraine and the European Police Office (ratified by the Ukrainian Parliament on July 12, 2017). In 2015, Ukraine and Europol signed a Memorandum of Understanding on establishing a secure communication channel, which allows the parties to exchange confidential information. In February 2017, the Agreement on Cooperation between Eurojust and Ukraine, signed on June 27, 2016, came into force, which will help strengthen their cooperation in the fight against organized crime and terrorism.

↪ Achievability and ambitiousness of the Target by 2020:

The target is achievable owing to the above dimensions of cooperation with Europol and Eurojust as well as the EUAM activities in Ukraine, one of the priorities of which is to strengthen the potential of the state in the fight against organized crime.

✎ Comments and suggestions:

The main task for Ukraine in this context before 2020 will be adequate implementation of the Agreement with Eurojust, encouraging involvement of other Partner Countries in the cooperation with the EU.

Milestone by 2017 Summit	Operational Action Plan aiming at sharing intelligence and operational data regarding the illicit firearms trafficking adopted by at least one Partner Country. EU Liaison Officers deployed in at least one Partner Country.
Target by 2020	Operational Action Plan aiming at sharing intelligence and operational data regarding the illicit firearms trafficking adopted by at least two Partner Countries. List of risk indicators established in at least two Partner Countries about potentially dangerous firearms transport and hotspots. Intelligence-led multinational Joint Actions conducted.

☑ **Reachability of the Milestone by 2017 Summit:**

Lack of information makes it impossible to assess the status of the task to adopt an Operational Action Plan on sharing intelligence and operational data regarding the illicit firearms trafficking, although this type of illegal activities has become one of the main threats to human security. On the other hand, the deployment of an EU Liaison Officer is realistic just in Ukraine as a Partner Country where this problem has recently become more acute.

↪ **Achievability and ambitiousness of the Target by 2020:**

The target is ambitious and relevant for Ukraine. There is raising concerns in the EU about transformation of the ORDLO into a source of illicit firearms trafficking in Europe (e.g., in 2016, the Security Service of Ukraine stopped a vehicle with illegal arms and ammunition on the border with Poland). So, in harmony with Art. 12 of the Association Agreement, Ukraine must be one of the first to fulfil this task – develop (if not developed yet) and launch implementation of an Operational Action Plan. The establishment of a risk indicators list is an achievable target for Ukraine, since such indicators are being developed but will need to be consolidated into one system in Ukraine.

✎ **Comments and suggestions:**

The goal of multinational Joint Actions is not specific. It would be better to replace it for implementation of a mechanism (procedure) for involvement of law enforcement personnel from EU countries in operations on counteracting illicit firearms trafficking, when it infringes interests of EU Member States, through joint investigations and operations suppressing such activities as well as formation of joint task forces.

Milestone by 2017 Summit	**Strategy or Action Plans to address cybercrime adopted by at least two Partner Countries.** **Operational contact points for international police-to-police and judicial cooperation on cybercrime and e-evidence designated.**
Target by 2020	**Strategy or Action Plans to address cybercrime adopted across the region.** **Fully-fledged, operational cybercrime units in law enforcement authorities created.** **Budapest Convention fully implemented, particularly as per procedural law for the purpose of domestic investigations, public-private cooperation and international cooperation.**

☑ **Reachability of the Milestone by 2017 Summit:**

The task of counteracting cybercrime in Ukraine has been already fulfilled. The Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine by its order of Mar. 10, 2017 approved an action plan for 2017 on realization of Cybersecurity Strategy of Ukraine. The plan provides for the implementation of the Budapest Convention on Cybercrime and Directive 2008/114/EC as well as the approximation of Ukrainian legislation in this area to that of the EU. Contact entities have been established: at the top level, the National Coordinating Center for Cybersecurity attached to the National Security and Defense Council of Ukraine, and at the operational level, the Cyberpolice Department of the National Police of Ukraine (since 2015). There are also a specialized cybersecurity unit within the Security Service of Ukraine and a Computer Emergency Response Team of Ukraine (CERT-UA) attached to the State Service of Special Communications and Information Protection of Ukraine.

↪ **Achievability and ambitiousness of the Target by 2020:**

Accordingly, the targets of fully-fledged units and implementation of the Budapest Convention, which came into effect in Ukraine 2006, may be also considered achieved. In the condition of external aggression, Ukraine has been actively developing cooperation with the EU, NATO, Council of Europe and other international organizations, as well as cooperating with nongovernmental institutions (for example the CyS-Centrum and the Ukrainian Cyber Troops).

✎ **Comments and suggestions:**

Since the target by 2020 is to cover the entire region, an additional task could be establishing a multilateral EaP Cybersecurity Center headquartered in Ukraine. Creation of such a Center was initiated by the Foreign Ministry of Ukraine and is supported by the expert community.

Milestone by 2017 Summit	**Hybrid threat risk assessment piloted in at least one Partner Country.** **Commitment by Partner Countries to develop national CERTs19 and Cybersecurity Strategies (if not in place), in line with EU best practices.**
Target by 2020	**Reinforce protection of critical infrastructure.** **Fully operational National _CERT_s in all Partner Countries are in place, linked to _EU CERTs_.** **Actionable national Cybersecurity Strategies are in place in all Partner Countries, on the basis of EU best practices and guidelines.** **Enhanced public/private and international cooperation on cybersecurity.**

☑ Reachability of the Milestone by 2017 Summit:

Ukraine has fulfilled the tasks on CERT and Cybersecurity Strategy: the FIRST-approved CERT-UA team has been operating in Ukraine since 2007, and the Cybersecurity Strategy approved in 2016. The task of piloting hybrid threat risk assessment coincides with the intention declared by the Foreign Ministry of Ukraine to establish an intergovernmental platform on security with EU and EaP countries. It can be realized with EU support, taking into account the de facto ongoing corresponding activities in Ukraine.

↪ Achievability and ambitiousness of the Target by 2020:

The abovementioned initiative of Ukraine's Foreign Ministry on the establishment of a multilateral EaP Cybersecurity Center can become a basis for fulfilling the task of enhanced international cooperation on cybersecurity. The rest of the tasks Ukraine has already executed, including public/private cooperation (e.g., cooperation with the private CyS-Centrum and Ukrainian Cyber Troops), which is expected to keep developing in the 2020 perspective. The reinforced protection of critical infrastructure is a task on which Ukraine has been already focusing, taking into account Russia's aggression and sabotaging/subversive activities.

✎ Comments and suggestions:

To guarantee that the target by 2020 on international cooperation will be achieved, Ukraine and other Partner Countries have to legislatively set up their cooperation with the European Cybercrime Center.

Milestone by 2017 Summit	**Increased support to the EaP region through the Regional Secretariat on Chemical, Biological, Radiobiological and Nuclear Risk Mitigation of the EU CBRN Centres of Excellence.**
Target by 2020	**Strengthened capacity to respond to a Regional Chemical, Biological, Radiobiological and Nuclear incident, in connection with other threats related to cybersecurity, counter-terrorism and border management.**

☑ Reachability of the Milestone by 2017 Summit:

The milestone is in fact reached, because Ukraine joined activities of the EU CBRN Centers of Excellence (via a Regional Secretariat) in 2011 and actively participates in the implementation of 14 CoE projects.

↪ Achievability and ambitiousness of the Target by 2020:

Given the vague formulation of the target, it can be achieved if the result is measured by comparison with 2017. Ukraine must pay its main attention the security of CBRN storage facilities, taking into account the real challenges related to the number of cyber attacks on Ukrainian computer networks and terrorist sabotaging attacks on bases and warehouses.

✏️ Comments and suggestions:

To determine the degree of "capacity to respond to incidents," the Ukrainian party has to officially record the corresponding level of 2017 and supply the data to the EU through the EU CBRN CoE.

Milestone by 2017 Summit	Participation by at least three Partner Countries in EU's CSDP operations.
Target by 2020	Conceptual and technical interoperability of Partner Countries' units with the EU facilitated, enabling systematic participation in EU missions. Stable participation in EU battlegroups.

☑️ Reachability of the Milestone by 2017 Summit:

Ukraine's participation in EU CSDP operations and missions is an absolutely reachable milestone since it is explicitly provided for by Art. 10 of the Association Agreement. In 2014, Ukraine joined the EU Naval Force ATALANTA operation, in 2014 and 216 it participated in EU tactical battle groups, and in 2014, a peacekeeping Lithuanian-Polish-Ukrainian Brigade, LITPOLUKRBRIG, was formed.

↪️ Achievability and ambitiousness of the Target by 2020:

The goal of interoperability of Partner Countries' units with the EU, enabling systematic participation in EU missions, is achievable before 2020, since the General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine has taken a decision on further involvement of the AFU in the formation of EU battlegroups in the first halves of 2018 and 2020. Taking into account conclusions made by the Council of the European Union on the EU Global Strategy dated Mar. 6, 2917, it would be worth complementing this target with a possibility for Partner Countries to participate in the *MPCC (Military Planning and Conduct Capability)* and *CPCC (Civilian Planning and Conduct Capability).*

✏️ Comments and suggestions:

Now Ukraine does not participate in any of the EU's 15 civilian and military missions. The situation could be improved by participation of Ukraine in one of the ongoing missions of the EU, e.g., *EU NAVFOR ATALANTA* (a warship of the Ukrainian Navy), *EU NAVFOR MED* (a warship of the Ukrainian Navy), *EUFOR ALTHEA BIH* (observers, a unit within a multinational battalion) and *EUTM Mali/EUTM Somalia* (instructors). Such participation will require conclusion of a framework agreement and an agreement on specific mission.

Milestone by 2017 Summit	Enhancement of training initiatives focused on CSDP and CFSP issues.
Target by 2020	Including CSDP/CFSP element in curricula of Defence colleges, police, diplomatic academies, universities. Streamlining CFSP /CSDP in the training system of Partner Countries.

☑️ Reachability of the Milestone by 2017 Summit:

The milestone may be considered reached: representatives of the MoD have already participated in a number of events: a CSDP High-Level Conference under the aegis of the European Security and Defense College (Jan. 18-19, 2017, Yerevan), a course of the CSDP training program (Jan. 23-26, Brussels) and a CSDP reflection seminar (Apr. 18-21, 2017, Chisinau).

↪️ Achievability and ambitiousness of the Target by 2020:

Given the predominant orientation of the Ukrainian defense sector to cooperation with NATO, as well as the EU's growing attention to the strengthening of own defense and security capabilities, the target is ambitious and relevant. In the first place, to achieve the target, the National Defense University of Ukraine has to amend its curricula, since both the National Academy of the Security Service of Ukraine and the National Academy of Internal Affairs cooperate with the EU more closely, in particular owing to the EUAM activities, and the NAPA has a special curriculum on national security that includes elements of CSDP and CFSP.

✏️ **Comments and suggestions:**
Taking into account the EU trends of strengthening its defense and security capabilities, it will be expedient for Ukraine to pay more attention to training in nonmilitary aspects of CSDP.

Milestone by 2017 Summit	Risk assessment and mapping are increasingly integrated in national, transboundary and regional disaster risk management plans.
Target by 2020	Comprehensive national and regional disaster risk management policies – including industrial risks – are developed and implemented based on risk assessment.

☑️ **Reachability of the Milestone by 2017 Summit:**
Mapping disaster risks based on the Electronic Regional Risk Atlas *(ERRA)* is a necessary and achievable task, although hardly achievable before the 2017 EaP Summit. In Ukraine, the Atlas development began with EU support *(PPRD East 2 program)* in 2015, and its completion was scheduled for 2018. At the same time, a Disaster Risk Assessment Working Group, which was formed in Ukraine, has already been assessing risks.

↪️ **Achievability and ambitiousness of the Target by 2020:**
Having a comprehensive national disaster risk management policy – including industrial risks – developed and implemented based on risk assessment is an achievable target, since it is envisaged by the National Action Plan for the implementation of the Risk Management Concept for technogenic and natural emergencies for the years 2015-2020. Thus, the target achievement depends on whether the Action Plan will be successfully implemented.

✏️ **Comments and suggestions:**
Besides the policy development, implementation of a multilateral mechanism for disaster prevention coordination and cooperation in the EaP region should be added as a target. This goal could be realized by establishing a joint control center for disaster prevention and localization, staffed with representatives of EU and EaP countries and located in Ukraine.

Milestone by 2017 Summit	At least one Partner Country established closer working relationships with the EU Civil Protection Mechanism, including joint trainings and exercises.
Target by 2020	Partner Countries closely cooperate with the EU Civil Protection Mechanism.

☑️ **Reachability of the Milestone by 2017 Summit:**
Ukraine in fact has reached this milestone of established closer working relationships with the EU Civil Protection Mechanism: since 2008, based on administrative arrangements between the former Emergencies Ministry of Ukraine (now State Emergency Service of Ukraine) and the EC Directorate-General for Environment, cooperation has been established between the Mechanism's former Monitoring and Information Center (now Emergency Response Coordination Center) and the Ministry's Emergency Watch Service. The EU is now using this mechanism to provide assistance to those who suffer from the conflict in Eastern Ukraine. Joint exercises and trainings are also regularly carried out in line with EU standards.

↪️ **Achievability and ambitiousness of the Target by 2020:**
As it is, the target looks relevant but not too ambitious. For closer cooperation, Ukraine has to join the Mechanism like Macedonia, Iceland, Lichtenstein and Norway did (official application was sent in August 2014).

✏️ **Comments and suggestions:**
The target by 2020 should be reworded as follows: "Partner Countries closely cooperate with, and have joined (at least one of them) the EU Civil Protection Mechanism." A barrier for achievement of this goal can be reluctance of some Partner Countries (Belarus) to cooperate closer with the EU in this. Therefore, the accession process at its initial stage could involve Ukraine, Moldova and Georgia, being then gradually extended to Azerbaijan, Armenia and Belarus within separate segments and activities.

Milestone by 2017 Summit	At least three Partner Countries increased initiatives to promote multi-stakeholder mechanisms, including local actors and civil society.
Target by 2020	Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction strategies are adopted at national and/or local level in line with the Sendai Framework, thereby increasing resilience.

☑ Reachability of the Milestone by 2017 Summit:

The milestone is reachable owing to the CIMIC establishment and activities, functioning of Civil-Military Administrations and strengthened interaction of security services with local governments and communities. The deliverables under one of the EUAM's priority "Community Policing," set up interaction of rescue and engineer units with local communities and public councils at Ukrainian Ministries, including the MoD and MoI, "reloaded" in 2017, all can be presented as the results.

↪ Achievability and ambitiousness of the Target by 2020:

No information on any Ukrainian disaster risk reduction strategy is available, making this target ambitious for Ukraine, whereas the goal of participation in the Sendai Framework is achievable. In particular, during the last session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (May 2017, Mexico), the deputy chief of the State Emergency Service of Ukraine, Ruslan Biloshytsky, discussed issues of national and local strategies and Ukraine's accession to the Sendai Framework implementation.

➕ Additional EaP goals:

Besides the counteraction to local threats to human life and safety, attention to the national security of Partner Countries and strengthening of multilateral cooperation in the EaP and EU region was increased in the updated Joint Staff Working Document. It would be therefore expedient to establish regular multilateral consultations at the level of national security councils to address the issues of counteracting the present-day threats, including hybrid ones, in order to enhance the ability to withstand them.

Following the logic of the EU's approaches to the sector of security in the EaP region, it looks expedient to initiate annual revisions/adjustments of the targets by 2020 and add the following:

- Elaborate and implement a multilateral mechanism for protection of critical infrastructure in Partner Countries in the transborder or regional segments;
- In Partner Countries, especially those with unsettled conflicts, approve necessary legislation for setting up IMAS-based national humanitarian demining systems;
- Within the EaP with involvement of the EU, form an intergovernmental security platform on counteraction to hybrid threats and settlement of lasting conflicts.

PRIORITY III:
CONNECTIVITY, ENERGY EFFICIENCY, ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE
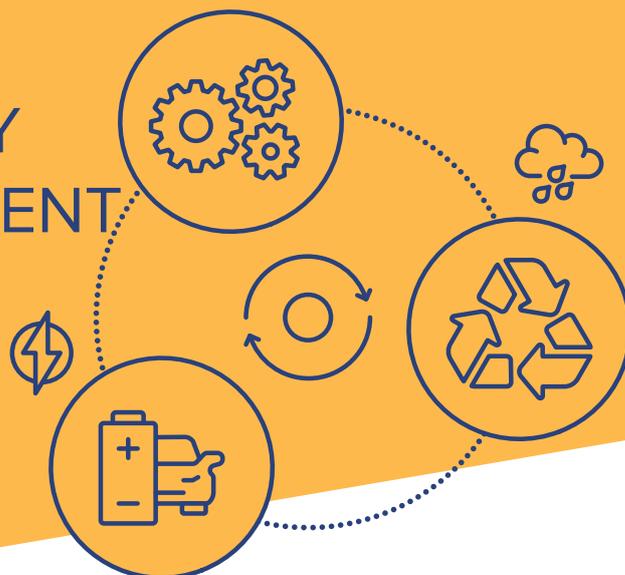
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EXTENSION OF TEN-T CORE NETWORKS

👤 **Iryna Kosse,** Institute for Economic Research and Policy Consulting, UNP WG2

Milestone by 2017 Summit	**Agreement reached on highest priority projects to be incorporated into the single coordinated pipeline, feeding into NIF (e.g. East –West Highway; sustainable modes of transport e.g. rail modernisation; reconstruction of interchanges on TEN-T -corridor roads, including M1 and M5 (E95), M6 (E40), M7 (E373)).** *[Discussion currently ongoing in the context of the EaP Platform and Panels; first analysis provided in dedicated study]*
Target by 2020	**Implementation under way on six missing links on the extended core TEN-T network with agreed pipeline of projects in place.**

☑ Reachability of the Milestone by 2017 Summit:

Fulfilment of this task before the specified deadline is realistic, since Ukraine has already identified its top priority infrastructure projects, including construction of the Lviv-Uman-Odesa road, construction of the Lviv bypass, construction and repair of the M-01 Kyiv-Chernihiv-Novi Yarylovychi highway and the M-05 Kyiv-Odesa highway (the Bila Tserkva-Uman section). Besides these, there are three more projects on the railroad service: electrification of the Berdychiv-Korosten-Berezhest section, standard gauge track reconstruction on the Kovel-Yahodyn-state border section followed by electrification and reopening of the Mukachevo-Chop-Záhony (Hungary)/Čierna nad Tisou (Slovakia) passenger service.

↪ Achievability and ambitiousness of the Target by 2020:

The target that is scheduled to be achieved by 2010 is quite ambitious and relevant. The main problem with the projects is still to meet requirements set by a funding bank for preliminary project approval. The European External Investment Plan is expected to solve this problem.

Milestone by 2017 Summit	Financial mechanisms agreed with Partner Countries and IFIs.
Target by 2020	Bottlenecks in the logistic chain removed, through smaller-scale projects with high added value i.e. 'quick win' projects. [First analysis currently conducted; some projects under development]

☑ Reachability of the Milestone by 2017 Summit:

The main financial mechanism at this stage is the European External Investment Plan (EIP). On July 6, 2017, the European Parliament adopted a regulation that governs one of the EIP's pillars, namely the *European Fund for Sustainable Development (EFSD)*. The final adoption of the EFSD Regulation by the Council will follow in September 2017. Nevertheless, the complete agreement on financial mechanisms with countries and IFIs before the 2017 EaP Summit looks unlikely.

↪ Achievability and ambitiousness of the Target by 2020:

The target appears to be ambitious. However, in the process of achieving it, the main problem will be to elaborate effective PPP mechanisms, because not a single PPP agreement works in Ukraine now. Ukraine will have to analyze causes of such a situation and, probably, make amendments to its PPP legislation in order to encourage private investment. It is only after these issues are solved that Ukraine will be able to achieve the target by 2020 – efficiently implement the "quick win" projects.

Milestone by 2017 Summit	Continued and/or launched negotiations on a Common Aviation Area Agreement (CAA) with at least three more Partner Countries. *[To date two countries are provisionally implementing the agreement, while progress on negotiations with other three countries is under way]*
Target by 2020	Having in place CAAs with the six Partner Countries.

☑ Reachability of the Milestone by 2017 Summit:

The way it is formulated, having this milestone reached by the 2017 EaP Summit is realistic, since no final result is provided – the signing of a Common Aviation Area Agreement.

↪ Achievability and ambitiousness of the Target by 2020:

The signing of an Agreement before 2020 is also realistic, because the Gibraltar dispute between the United Kingdom and Spain, which hinders the identification of the Agreement's territorial boundaries, will be solved with the documentary execution of Brexit. However, the Agreement implementation will depend on how Ukraine will meet European standards on flying safety, aviation security, air traffic flow management, consumer protection, computer reservation systems, etc.

✎ Comments and suggestions:

Ukraine has to develop necessary legislation and regulations and bring those already developed in line with the European directives. Therefore, the target should be better reworded as "Having in place CAAs with the six Partner Countries and conditions formed for their adequate application."

Milestone by 2017 Summit	Negotiations ongoing for the inclusion of inland waterways (IWW) into the indicative *TEN-T* network.
Target by 2020	Inclusion of IWW into the indicative *TEN-T* network.

☑ **Reachability of the Milestone by 2017 Summit:**

Inland waterways will be hardly included into the indicative TEN-T network before the 2017 EaP Summit because it depends on Ukraine's actions only partly. Whether the milestone will be reached depends on the implementation by Ukraine of international environmental conventions, primarily the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention), which, according to Romania, Ukraine breached with the Danube-Black Sea Deep-Water Navigation Canal project.

↪ **Achievability and ambitiousness of the Target by 2020:**

Ukraine's progress made in the implementation of international environmental conventions has been noted by the EU-Ukraine Association Council, so the achievement of the target is quite realistic.

Milestone by 2017 Summit	**National road safety action plans adopted in and national agencies established, where conditions allow.**
Target by 2020	**Number of fatalities due to road accidents reduced.** **National road safety action plans adopted and national road safety agencies/ platforms established in all Partner Countries.** **Road design standards in line with EU standards and vehicle technical inspection services operational according to EU standards.**

☑ **Reachability of the Milestone by 2017 Summit:**

The task to adopt a national road safety action plan before the 2017 EaP Summit is quite realistic because a Road Safety Strategy until 2020 is just being discussed in Ukraine. However, a special interagency road safety authority and a Road Fund, which is supposed to finance road safety measures, will be hardly established by that time, since experts question whether these are really necessary.

↪ **Achievability and ambitiousness of the Target by 2020:**

To achieve the target by 2020, Ukraine needs to take clear decisions on the issues of financing road safety measures. Moreover, with assistance from a two-year EIB project, Ukraine has to bring its road design and vehicle technical inspection standards in line with those of the EU.

✎ **Comments and suggestions:**

The national road safety action plan must be comprehensive and, on the one hand, avoid overlapping of functions of different authorities and, on the other hand, involve police, healthcare services, civil society, etc.

14

ENERGY SUPPLY

👤 **Andriy Chubyk,** Center for Global Studies «Strategy XXI»,
UNP WG3

Milestone by 2017 Summit	**EU4Energy national work plans are developed for the newly established programme.**
Target by 2020	**Defining projects involving Eastern Partners outside Energy Community framework.**

☑ Reachability of the Milestone by 2017 Summit:

As of March 2017, there was no national work plan for Ukraine published on the Energy Community site. Ukraine falls behind with the implementation in majority of sectors except gas, so realization of the national work plan needs clear progress indicators and a realistic implementation time frame.

↪ Achievability and ambitiousness of the Target by 2020:

It is absolutely realistic to define projects involving Eastern Partners outside Energy Community framework by 2020. Now the goals need to be discussed and agreed upon, proceeding from the format of acceptable level of relationships between the EU and corresponding partners (an Association Agreement or a Partnership Agreement).

✏ Comments and suggestions:

The most relevant thing now is to demonstrate solidarity between the EU and the EaP countries in spreading common energy market rules, including demand for external suppliers – Russia – to respect these rules on the territory of Energy Community member countries.

Milestone by 2017 Summit	**Adoption of projects of strategic importance:** *Projects of Energy Community Interest (PECI)* **and** *Projects of Mutual Interest21 list (PMI)*, **and starting with implementation monitoring and reporting.** *[New PECI list adopted in October 2016; first PMI list adopted in October 2016]*
Target by 2020	**Projects implementation review; update and review of key priority projects related to Eastern Partners.**

☑ Reachability of the Milestone by 2017 Summit:

Tentatively, the list may be revised or updated in October 2018. The announced projects have different implementation potential. In particular, progress is expected in the implementation of the Poland-Ukraine gas pipeline project, whereas the Brody-Adamowo oil pipeline does not have significant prospects of implementation. The main challenge for the gas pipeline is the construction of North Stream 2, which is able to cardinally reformat the gas flows in Central and Eastern Europe. An obstacle to the oil pipeline implementation is the political stance of Poland stemming from a change in the economic conditions for oil refining in the country.

↪ Achievability and ambitiousness of the Target by 2020:

The target has a formally statistical character. It would be worth instead to suggest working meetings once every half

a year at the level of responsible ministers and the managers of involved companies in order to discuss the state of affairs, obstacles and solutions.

✎ Comments and suggestions:

The goal of developing the Poland-Ukraine gas pipeline is very relevant, providing opportunities for steadier gas market functioning in Poland and Ukraine, as well as opportunities for physical and commercial gas operations in the region. It will be expedient to give up the oil pipeline project if no implementation progress is made before 2018.

Milestone by 2017 Summit	**Moldova-Romania: progress in developing the gas interconnection.** *[Interconnector operational since May 2015, pipeline Ungheni-Chisinau to be constructed; feasibility study finalised in July 2016; Financing Decisions signed in December 2016]*
Target by 2020	**Gas interconnection Ungheni-Chisinau operational.**

✓ Reachability of the Milestone by 2017 Summit:

The Moldova-Romania gas pipeline is important in view of probable aggravation in the issue of continuation of Russian gas transit via Ukraine after 2019 toward Romania, Bulgaria and Turkey as well as supply to Moldova.

➦ Achievability and ambitiousness of the Target by 2020:

The target is relevant for Ukraine. It will indirectly strengthen Ukraine's position in the process of negotiations with Russia. However, if the transit is stopped, the system of gas supply to the Southern-Western region will have to be reformatted.

✎ Comments and suggestions:

Conducting a series of additional meetings in the format of the European Commission, Romania, Moldova and Ukraine would be desirable to assess gas market prospects in this region and identify necessary measures needed to minimize the supply discontinuation risks.

Milestone by 2017 Summit	**Solid progress made on the expansion of the South Caucasus Gas Pipeline based on Azerbaijan continued cooperation.** *[Currently all contracts awarded; work started on construction of compressor station and pipeline sections]*
Target by 2020	**Southern Gas Corridor operational and gas flowing to Turkey and the EU.** **Relevant progress on SGC extension towards Central Asia.**

✓ Reachability of the Milestone by 2017 Summit:

Progress around the South Caucasus Gas Pipeline depends on plans of international energy companies and, first and foremost, on political decisions by the leadership of Turkey, Russia and Azerbaijan.

➦ Achievability and ambitiousness of the Target by 2020:

The suggested formulations do not reflect goals and tasks that could be used to measure progress in the promotion of the EU's and Partner Countries' interests in the realization of a gas supply route from the Caspian region and Central Asia to Europe.

✎ Comments and suggestions:

What should be done to protect the EU's and Partner Countries' interests is to increase political responsibility and guarantees of assistance to the said region's countries against pressure on the part of Russia as well as to clearly list likely levers, both economic (sanctions, refusal to buy energy resources) and military (armed missions in conjunction with NATO to protect critical infrastructure).

Milestone by 2017 Summit	**Electricity interconnections Georgia-Armenia.** *[Currently no reliable power connection between Georgia and Armenia]*
Target by 2020	**Establishment of the NIF supported back-to-back electricity interconnection between Georgia and Armenia.**

⤴ Achievability and ambitiousness of the Target by 2020:

Interconnecting the Georgian and Armenian power grids will not guarantee secure supply between the two countries because Russian companies are the actual owners of majority of power generation facilities in Armenia.

✎ Comments and suggestions:

Ukraine could indirectly benefit if the EU demands that Russia would stop interfering in internal sovereign affairs of these countries.

✚ Additional EaP goals:

The proposed agenda for cooperation until 2020 is not based on assessment of real threats to the security of power supply either to the EU or to the Partner Countries. The Russian Federation is and will remain the key threat to each and all of these parties. Russia is functioning within the frame of total confrontation with the rest of the world, whereas the said parties, except Ukraine, keep on doing business as usual.

The EU has to formulate a simple and clear frame of its foreign energy policy. Its main tool should be economic pressure on Russia, in the context of trade in energy resources in the first place. First, the European energy law must be a priority on the entire territory of the EU and Energy Community member countries without exception. Second, Russia must accept the peremptory demand to ensure equal access to the energy transportation infrastructure by each and all parties concerned. Third, the EU has to be ready to provide political guarantees to all countries through which the infrastructure of energy resources supply to Europe will run; it also has to have ready at hand an effective package of sanctions against infringers, Russia foremost, including total refusal to buy energy resources from them. The EU and NATO have to pursue common policy of critical infrastructure protection and furnish corresponding observer missions of armed forces in target countries, especially Georgia, with materiel.

15 ENERGY EFFICIENCY, USE OF RENEWABLE ENERGY, AND REDUCED GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

👤 **Denys Nazarenko,** DiXi Group, UNP Working Group 3

Milestone by 2017 Summit	**CoM East II is launched (Yerevan, October 2016).** **At least 20 Partner Countries' Local Authorities committed to CoM-East 2030 objectives.** *[Currently at the beginning of the implementation process]*
Target by 2020	**At least 100 Partner Countries' Local Authorities reduced urban CO2 emissions of 20%.** **At least 50 Partner Countries' Local Authorities committed to more ambitious objectives.**

☑ Reachability of the Milestone by 2017 Summit:

As of now, local Sustainable Energy Action Plans (SEAPs), using which participants in the Covenant of Mayors undertake to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, are adopted voluntarily, and the planning quality in every case depends on competence of local government. Taking this into account, more efficiency could be achieved by proper implementation of Art. 5(7) and Art. 7 of Directive 2012/27/EU. As a result, encouragement of the adoption of SEAPs at the local level would become a state policy. Since 2014, 67 SEAPs have been submitted under the CoM, of which 49 were accepted by the secretariat, and only two envisage commitments until 2030. Thus, it is practically impossible to increase this number from two to 20 by November 2017. On the other hand, about a half of them provide for more than 20% emission reduction already now.

🔁 Achievability and ambitiousness of the Target by 2020:

The target of adopting 100 SEAPs looks quite ambitious and realistic, as does the fact that a half of them are expected to provide for a more ambitious emission reduction. However, their implementation, i.e., actual emission reduction, will be impossible without significant improvement in the sector's legal and regulatory environment. Lack of a national system to monitor and record the emission reduction, which is required to confirm the target achievement, will be another barrier.

Milestone by 2017 Summit	**Political ownership of energy efficiency raised through Informal Policy Dialogue and investment priorities set jointly with IFIs, in line with the High-level Energy Efficiency Initiative with IFIs.**
Target by 2020	**Funds' disbursement rates improved following policy reform in Partner Countries.** **Progress on supported investment projects achieved to targets.** **EU investment funds provided in compliance with EU and/or international environmental requirements.**

☑ **Reachability of the Milestone by 2017 Summit:**

To a significant extent, rigidly tying up its macroeconomic assistance with real energy efficiency reforms, as fixed in all recent memorandums (the last time in February 2017), the IMF made energy conservation and efficiency actually become part of the political authorities' agenda. As a result, the fundamental part of the Energy Efficiency Package was adopted in June 2017. Provided this format of cooperation continues, further work on its implementation will be effective too. It is worth noting, however, that local financing programs at the level of European Neighborhood Instrument play just a nominal role in stepping the energy efficiency topic up on the agenda of the Government and Parliament. Nevertheless, the milestone may be considered reached.

↪ **Achievability and ambitiousness of the Target by 2020:**

As the recent implementation of framework legislation on energy efficiency has succeeded rather well, and the general business climate has been moderately improving, the pace of provision and utilization of corresponding financial support is expected to grow, so the target is achievable, even without any serious efforts made by Ukraine. At the same time, the target lacks a clear expected level of the increase in the volume of assistance, what makes it difficult to assess its ambitiousness. At this reform stage, Ukraine still needs significant improvement of its regulatory environment to attract bigger and longer investments for the successful implementation of projects.

✎ **Comments and suggestions:**

Thus, a possible recommendation could be that the projects of technical assistance, like, e.g., *Twinning (ENI East)*, to central authorities and regulatory agencies should be continued and extended.

Milestone by 2017 Summit	***Nationally determined contributions (NDC)* to the Paris Agreement developed.** *[Currently two countries have developed their NDCs as they ratified the Paris Agreement]* **Sectoral Policy guidelines for the implementation of the Paris Agreement drafted.** *[Currently no such guidelines in place]*
Target by 2020	**Partner countries on-track with Paris Agreement to communicate and implement their NDCs as well as their mid-century, long-term low GHG emission development strategies.**

☑ **Reachability of the Milestone by 2017 Summit:**

Ukraine was among the first countries that ratified the Paris Agreement, submitting its nationally determined contribution on Sep. 19, 2016. Since then, however it has not demonstrated any significant activity in the Agreement implementation. On the one hand, the Paris Agreement so far does not impose actual obligations to reduce emissions (the implementation will begin in 2021), whereas setting the year 1990 as the baseline and the weak economic activity will be somewhat loosening in the implementation period. On the other and, the necessary regulatory work is limited to the adoption of utterly general conceptual documents. Nothing indicates that Sectoral Policy guidelines for the Paris Agreement implementation will be adopted by November 2017.

↪ **Achievability and ambitiousness of the Target by 2020:**

The adoption of a good strategy for a country's low GHG emission development is an optimal and quite relevant target by 2020. However, the development of the Energy Strategy until 2035, which must underlie the Low GHG Emission Development Strategy until 2050, has been suspended due to its low quality and the criticism from EU institutions. At present, the only concept of Ukraine's low GHG emission development, which has been drafted by German consultants with support of the UNDP, is not officially endorsed by the Government. Given the current pace, and without significant acceleration of rule-making work, no achievement of the target by 2020 is possible in terms of concept development completion.

Milestone by 2017 Summit	**Start upgrading national greenhouse gas monitoring, reporting and verification practices in line with the Paris Agreement.**
Target by 2020	**Partner countries getting on-track with Paris Agreement transparency requirements.**

☑ Reachability of the Milestone by 2017 Summit:

As of now, any significant efforts to normalize the greenhouse gas monitoring procedure in Ukraine are absent. No bill on the matter has ever been drafted despite the fact the it is a breach of the terms specified in the Implementation Plan of Directive 2003/87/EC and a corresponding concept was approved by the Environment and Natural Resources Ministry of Ukraine as long ago as 2015. The main problem here is the passivity of responsible state agencies.

↪ Achievability and ambitiousness of the Target by 2020:

Starting upgrade of the monitoring system before November 2017 is not too ambitious but quite relevant goal for Ukraine in view of the very low initial level. The target by 2020 is reasonable although insufficiently detailed. However, amended Art. 13 of the Energy Community Treaty has a potential to help Ukraine fully achieve it by bringing the national policy on fulfilment of the Paris Agreement commitments in line with the relevant policy and law of the EU. Provided the Environment and Natural Resources Ministry takes an active stance, it will be quite realistic for Ukraine to hit the target.

Milestone by 2017 Summit	**Launch of climate action investment facilities agreed with Partner Countries and IFIs.** *[Currently no specific climate action investment facilities agreed]*
Target by 2020	**At least one major climate action investment facility per Partner Country in place.**

☑ Reachability of the Milestone by 2017 Summit:

In June, the Ukrainian Parliament passed the Law "On the Energy Efficiency Fund" and an accompanying legislation package, what was a condition for the financing of the Fund by the EC. Thus far, it is the only large-scale facility for energy consumption reduction and climate change control. The financing of the Fund in this year's State Budget is earmarked at UAH 400 million, and external financing is expected at up to €100 million. However, experts estimate that Ukraine has to attract €75 billion to €100 billion in investments, of which the housing stock accounts for just 30%, to achieve goals of the low GHG emission development. Therefore, the launch of new climate action investment facilities is an urgent need, and success is very likely.

↪ Achievability and ambitiousness of the Target by 2020:

Provided the Energy Efficiency Fund qualifies as a climate action investment facility and the law on it is implemented quickly, achievement of the target by до 2017 Summit is possible. The way the target by 2020 is formulated does not make it different in principle from the milestone by 2017 Summit. It would be more reasonable to specify a minimum amount to be provided under all existing mechanisms before this deadline, e.g., at least €10 billion worth of investments.

✚ Additional EaP goals:

Three of five items in this section in fact concern greenhouse gas emissions and only the two first indirectly focus on energy efficiency. An impression is that this is not an agenda of the EU's neighbors but the EU itself, where basic energy efficiency systems were set up long ago and are operational.

In general, proper and fast implementation of Directives 2012/27/EU on energy efficiency and 2010/31/EU on the energy performance of buildings can bring the biggest effect in terms of reduction of energy consumption in Ukraine. For the EaP countries that are parties to the Energy Community Treaty (Ukraine, Moldova and Georgia), legally binding obligations to implement the EU's key energy legislation, including the said two Directives, are a decisive factor. Having the encouragement and acceleration of their fulfillment among priorities of EaP programs would significantly increase the programs' productivity.

16 ENVIRONMENT AND ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE

👤 **Anna Golubovska-Onisimova,** All-Ukrainian Environmental NGO MAMA-86, UNP Working Group 3

Milestone by 2017 Summit	**National and regional work plans to improve water management ready.** **Two-three pilot Water Framework Directive compliant River Basin Management Plans adopted by Partner Countries.** **Water quality surveys, including two Joint Black Sea surveys carried out.**
Target by 2020	**At least 30% of River Basin Management Plans developed and a Water Framework Directive compliant management commenced.** **Risks for the Black Sea degradation and target environmental quality identified and marine litter clean-up carried out in Georgia and Ukraine based on active public participation.**

☑ Reachability of the Milestone by 2017 Summit:

As for the intention of having national and regional work plans to improve water management, it is unrealistic to expect such a national plan developed in 2017. This is because the first meeting of the Steering Committee for preparation of the National Water Policy Dialog (NWPD) in collaboration with the OECD and the UNECE under the auspices of the EU Water Initiative+ project was held as recently as March 2017. Discussed so far have been issues of interaction and roles of different sectors in the area of water policy. What may be expected is the beginning of Water Strategy development in accordance with the commitments under the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement and the plans of the Environment and Natural Resources Ministry.

The goal on adoption of River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs) in 2017 is unrealistic, too, since there is no legal framework necessary for that, to say the least. Approval of bylaws on the RBMP structure and development methodology in 2017 is realistic. As of 2017, experts have drafted RBMPs for the upper Dnipro and Prut, Southern Bug and certain subbasins. The task to develop an RBMP for Dnipro before 2024 is the most ambitious one. EU Water Initiative+ is supposed to provide assistance for the development.

Carrying out water quality surveys, including Joint Black Sea Surveys, is relevant for Ukraine. Taking into account the established monitoring system and work currently being done with support of the EU EMBEAS II project, as well as Black Sea degradation risks identification and launched actions to reduce marine litter (with grant support of the ENI CBC "Black Sea Basin Joint Operational Program 2014-2020"), the task on the Joint Black Sea Surveys looks realistic.

↪ Achievability and ambitiousness of the Target by 2020:

Provided tasks on harmonization of Ukrainian water legislation are fulfilled before the end of 2017, achievement of Water Framework Directive (WFD) compliant management commenced in at least 30% of river basins looks more realistic than 50%. However, according to the EU WFD implementation schedule, Ukraine has 10 years for RBMPs preparation, consultations with public and publication of these plans. This means that such plans have to be approved for implementation just in 2024.

In view of essential problems in setting up water resources monitoring and that necessary work by experts on drafting

RBMP chapters has not yet begun, the approval of RBMPs in 2020 even for 30% of river basins (leave alone the implementation) is at significant risk. In Ukraine, nine main river basins have been singled out.

✎ Comments and suggestions:

Regarding the River Basin Management Plans adoption, we suggest rewording this milestone by 2017 Summit as follows: "WFD-compliant Management Plans drafted for at least four river subbasins" (for Ukraine).
We also suggest adding the following milestone for 2017: "The Water Strategy development to improve water resources management started."

It will be relevant to legislatively approve the water management toolkit recommended by the World Health Organization – Water and Sanitation Safety Plans (WSSP). Therefore, we suggest adding the following target by 2020: "Legal framework for implementation of Water and Sanitation Safety Plans adopted."

Milestone by 2017 Summit	**Resource Efficiency and Cleaner Production Clubs of SMEs created in all Partner Countries.** **Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEA) and Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) legislation adopted and implementation launched.** **Green economy plans drafted and adopted by two-three Partner Countries.** **New green economy programme formulated.** **Action Plan drafted along provisions of EaP Ministerial Declaration on Cooperation on Environment and Climate Change.** **Adaptation measures identified as part of sector-specific actions.**
Target by 2020	**Share of and revenue from green economy sectors increased.** **200 SMEs trained.** **10% cost savings realised by 60 pilot enterprises due to cleaner production.** **Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEA) and Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) legislation compliant with relevant Conventions and EU benchmarks and applied in line with the intended scope across all sectors.** **1000 SMEs aware of green economy benefits.** **Green growth and adaptation measures identified as part of sector-specific actions.**

☑ Reachability of the Milestone by 2017 Summit:

Resource Efficiency and Cleaner Production Clubs of SMEs were created. The task is relevant and realistic, and it is already being implemented by UNIDO, a partner of the EaP GREEN program. In two regions of Ukraine (Chernihiv and Kharkiv Oblasts) such clubs have been already established, uniting 35 SMEs. Plans exist to create such clubs in Mykolaiv, Odesa and Poltava Oblasts in 2017.

The situation has been developing so that in the case Ukraine fails to adopt Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEA) and Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) legislation it will be faced with numerous sanctions by international organizations and UNECE conventions as soon as 2017, what we may consider an external incentive. Thus far, the Ukrainian Parliament has passed Law of Ukraine No. 2009а-д "On Environmental Impact Assessment" (of Feb. 22, 2016). As for the bill on SEA (No. 6106), it passed the first reading on May 23, 2017. As for the implementation from 2017, it is an unrealistic task, since, even under the most optimistic scenario, up to six months will be required after adoption of the SEA and EIA laws to draft and approve bylaws, although passed laws come into effect on the date of publication.

Processes of greening the economy in Ukraine have already begun, supported by EaP GREEN and other programs and partners. The development and adoption of such a plan is a relevant and realistic task for Ukraine but depends on existence of political will. Since the formulation of this goal is not rigidly linked to Ukraine, though a satisfactory level of Ukraine's readiness would make a scenario of adopting the plan before the Summit possible (but not mandatory), we suggest keeping the updated wording of the goal unchanged.

Formulation of a new green economy program is largely an administrative result planned under EU technical assistance project EaP GREEN II implemented by OECD, UNECE, UNEP and UNIDO. This milestone is worth keeping as demonstrative, since the matter is an utterly innovative area of activities that certainly encounter many obstacles. The realisticity and ambitiousness are satisfactory.

Drafting Action Plan along provisions of EaP Ministerial Declaration on Cooperation on Environment and Climate Change is a very important milestone to plan activities in the region. At present, work is carried out on the third version of the draft plan. EaP CSF WG3 insists on that the plan should prioritize the environmental governance themes, where, according to CSOs, an Overview of Environmental Governance in the six EaP countries must be the key activity for 2017. The Overview will contain an analysis and recommendations for improvement.

⤴ Achievability and ambitiousness of the Target by 2020:

Thus, based on the milestones achieved, we can expect that the training of representatives of 200 SMEs and achieving the environmental and economic effect at 60 enterprises by 2020 is a realistic task, if we take a 10% reduction in costs as a benchmark.

The updated wording of the green economy target already contains a measurable indicator that meets expectations, namely: «sector share and green economy revenues increased.» In this wording, the goal is achievable and quite ambitious.

The goal on Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEA) and Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) legislation is quite achievable, provided relevant laws are adopted in 2017. Taking into account that the process of bringing Ukrainian legislation in this field in line with multilateral international agreements has been already lasting for 10 years or more, this target may be considered quite ambitious.

✎ Comments and suggestions:

We suggest the following wording for some of the milestones:
- ▸ SEA and EIA legislation adopted.
- ▸ Action Plan drafted along provisions of EaP Ministerial Declaration on Cooperation on Environment and Climate Change. Overview of Environmental Governance in the six EaP countries prepared.

We also suggest adding the following goals to the target:
- ▸ Resource Efficiency and Cleaner Production Clubs of SMEs created and are functioning in all administrative regions of each of Partner Countries;
- ▸ Based on conclusions and recommendations in Overview of Environmental Governance in the six EaP countries, regional and national plans of good environmental governance prepared and being implemented.

Milestone by 2017 Summit	Progress in developing and enforcing sustainable forestry laws and strengthening institutions, thus laying the basis for combatting illegal logging and promoting sustainable trade.
Target by 2020	Illegal logging addressed, and level of illegal timber exports prevented. Improved and transparent forest governance. Improved livelihoods for people in forestry-dependent communities.

☑ **Reachability of the Milestone by 2017 Summit:**

The forestry situation in Ukraine is very tense. According to experts of the World Bank's FLEG program, the years 2014-2016 were lost for the forest governance reform. The suggested goals are very relevant and pressing and must become realistic. On the other hand, there is certain, though insufficient so far, progress being made with support from the FLEG (II) program.

↪ **Achievability and ambitiousness of the Target by 2020:**

The reform logic under the Association Agreement also makes the target by 2020 in its suggested wording "mandatorily achievable", the more so that experts have elaborated a complete package of recommendations over the 15 years. At present, political will remains the decisive factor for reform acceleration. An important incentive is the necessity to comply with the new EU Timber Regulation on bringing timber and woodworking products to EU market. This, in the first place, requires creation of legislative and organizational conditions for identification of the legality of wood origin in all supply chains.

Milestone by 2017 Summit	Launch of preparation for national and sectoral adaptation plans. *[To date no plans in place]*
Target by 2020	National and sectoral adaptation plans in place.

☑ **Reachability of the Milestone by 2017 Summit:**

Both the milestone and the target by 2020 are quite ambitious, taking into account that the preparation has just started (with support of EU technical assistance project *Clima East II*). Provided there is political will, they also look realistic (approving a decision on preparation for national and sectoral adaptation plans in 2017 will be enough for the minimum level of achievement).

↪ **Achievability and ambitiousness of the Target by 2020:**

The target in this formulation is quite achievable and ambitious.

Milestone by 2017 Summit	National work plans and a regional work plan for sharing environmental information developed and adopted.
Target by 2020	Improved on-line access to data and state of the environment analyses.

☑ **Reachability of the Milestone by 2017 Summit:**

The development and adoption of national and regional work plans for sharing environmental information is largely an administrative result planned under EU technical assistance project *SEIS II* implemented by EEA. No comment needed.

↪ **Achievability and ambitiousness of the Target by 2020:**

The realisticity and ambitiousness are satisfactory.

✏️ Comments and suggestions:

As for the target by 2020, we suggest rewording it as follows: "Improved on-line access to data and state of the environment analyses in line with the UNECE unified list of environmental indicators."

Milestone by 2017 Summit	Nature conservation strengthened through progress on identification of a shared network of specially designated protected areas.
Target by 2020	Increased share of officially designated protected areas under the Emerald Network. Improved management of existing designated areas.

☑️ Reachability of the Milestone by 2017 Summit:

Ukraine is a party to the Bern Convention. Under the Association Agreement, it also must implement the EU Birds Directive and the EEC Habitats Directive. For the purpose of their implementation, Ukraine takes measures to form a system of natural and semi-natural areas whose natural complexes play a key role for the survival of most important constituents of biodiversity in Europe at the levels of species and ecosystems: the Natura 2000 and the Emerald Network. In late 2016, within the Bern Convention framework, a list Emerald Network sites in Ukraine was adopted, comprising 271 protected sites totaling 6.2 million hectares or about 10% of the country. Its biggest part coincides with the territory of the Natural Reserves Stock of Ukraine. This official adoption grants these sites the international status of designated protected areas. Further on, a management and monitoring system must be set up for conservation-reliant rare and endangered species of plants and animals as well as natural habitats. Increasing the Natural Reserves Stock area up to the average European level is a strategic task of state policy. The main obstacles and complications here arise from local governments with which the territories for new NRS sites need to be agreed upon. Since the expected results are not concretized in terms of quantitative or qualitative indicators, and taking into account ongoing work in Ukraine in this direction, it is realistic to expect that these results will be achieved.

↪️ Achievability and ambitiousness of the Target by 2020:

The suggested milestone and targets are realistic and achievable. At the same time, expanding the Emerald Network is quite ambitious a task per se, since part of the territories in question will need a change in the economic activities regime on the allocated areas.

PRIORITY IV
MOBILITY AND PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE CONTACTS

17 VISA LIBERALIZATION DIALOGS AND MOBILITY PARTNERSHIPS

👤 **Iryna Sushko,** "Europe without Barriers", UNP Working Group 1

Milestone by 2017 Summit	**Visa-free regime for Ukraine and Georgia.** **Continuous fulfilment of VLAP benchmarks for Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine.** **Consider in due course the opening of a Visa Liberalisation Dialogue with Armenia, if conditions allow.** **Re-launch and finalisation of the Visa Facilitation and Readmission negotiations with Belarus.** **Holding of first High Level meeting under Mobility Partnership with Belarus.** **Holding of the first High Level meeting under Mobility Partnership with Azerbaijan.**
Target by 2020	**Continuous fulfilment of VLAP benchmarks for Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine and annual reporting by the Commission.** **Effective implementation of all Mobility Partnerships, with balance between the 4 pillars (legal migration, irregular migration, migration and development, international protection), including circular migration, return and reintegration schemes.** **Significant progress made towards the possible conclusion of VLAP with Armenia and subsequent visa-free travel for its citizens, if all benchmarks are met.** **Consider in due course the opening of a Visa Liberalisation Dialogue with Azerbaijan, if conditions allow.**

☑ Reachability of the Milestone by 2017 Summit:

As for the introduction of a visa-free regime for Ukraine and Georgia, the milestone has been achieved. The visa-free regime in relations between Georgia and the EU came into effect in March 2017, and for Ukraine the visa regime was lifted on June 11, 2017. The decisions to abolish visas were taken based on conclusions made by the European Commission, the European Parliament and the Council of the EU. All of them recognized that these counties had met the criteria in their Visa Liberalization Action Plans. A post-visa-liberalization monitoring mechanism is set up following the visa regime abolishment in order to measure progress of the reforms launched within the visa liberalization framework. Thus, the implementation of the VLAP criteria by the three EaP countries will continue. The independent monitoring can provide preliminary results of the visa-free regime's effect before the 2017 EaP Summit (the first two or three months), identifying trends and giving a possibility for adjustments if any drawbacks will be found.

↪ Achievability and ambitiousness of the Target by 2020:

As of the first half of 2017, the EaP components related to visa liberalization prospects have been partly realized. Three of the six EaP countries, namely Moldova, Georgia and Ukraine, have obtained a visa-free regime in their relations with the EU. However, the visa abolishment will be accompanied by another challenge: the necessity to retain this regime and keep up the stability of the reforms that were launched in the visa liberalization framework. One more challenge for the Partner Countries enjoying the visa-free regime is to meet criteria of the visa waiver suspension mechanism, which the EU introduced to prevent migration and security challenges. The criteria deal with migration and border control.

✎ Comments and suggestions:

Launch independent post-liberalization monitoring in Partner Countries. Implementation tools include, partly, European Integration Index and/or Post-Liberalization Index for EaP countries.

Milestone by 2017 Summit	**Integrated Border Management: reconstruction works under way in at least seven Border Crossing points.**
Target by 2020	**Modernised network of Border Crossing Points among Partners and between them and EU Member States.** **Contribution to enhanced trade flows and mobility among partners as well as between them and the EU.**

☑ Reachability of the Milestone by 2017 Summit:

Owing to the Integrated Border Management, harmonious cross-border movement under visa-free regime with the EU should be ensured by 2017 for two Partner Countries – Georgia and Ukraine. For other Partner Countries, their readiness for security challenges (migration risks, organized crime, fight against corruption, terrorism), overcome/ minimized through closer cooperation and exchange of information and knowledge by border authorities at the bilateral and multilateral levels, should become a task.

↪ Achievability and ambitiousness of the Target by 2020:

Completion of the border crossing points reconstruction is an ambitious goal, which require not only technical support but also agreed actions at the bilateral levels, and can be achieved by 2020.

✎ Comments and suggestions:

The EaP Panels on Migration and Asylum and on Integrated Border Management should broaden involvement opportunities for experts from Partner Countries' NGOs and invite them to joint projects.

To continue its active work within the Forum framework, the "visa subgroup" within WG1 needs to be reloaded. This subgroup in fact suspended its activities when the three most interested Partner Countries completed their visa liberalization. Work currently should focus on civic monitoring of borers and implementation of the *"smart borders"* idea as a uniting goal for Partner Countries.

18 YOUNG PEOPLE'S SKILLS, ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND EMPLOYABILITY

Maria Symonova, "Clean Universities" Anticorruption Campaign, UNP Working Group 4

Milestone by 2017 Summit	**1-st group of multilateral partnerships supporting entrepreneurship education and social entrepreneurship established (see also Civil Society Fellowships; Deliverable 1).** *[EU4Youth implementation starting in 2017]*
Target by 2020	**Along Civil Society Fellowships for youth, partnerships for Entrepreneurship and transnational cooperation projects implemented, with 100 youth organisations and organisations addressing youth issues supported and reduced skills - labour market demands mismatch.**

☑ Reachability of the Milestone by 2017 Summit:

The use of multilateral partnerships supporting entrepreneurship education and social entrepreneurship is continuing. According to opinion polls, the economic well-being and employment opportunities are still a priority for Ukrainians. In particular, 54% of the youth in Ukraine consider employment a priority today and in the three-year perspective for their own lives (results of a youth poll in 2016).

↪ Achievability and ambitiousness of the Target by 2020:

The target, expected to be achieved by 2020, is ambitious and achievable, provided the multilateral partnerships supporting entrepreneurship education and social entrepreneurship are timely launched in 2017.

✎ Comments and suggestions:

Involvement of business associations, SMEs and local authorities in the partnership implementation is a *sine qua non* to create conditions for young people to apply new knowledge and skills.

Milestone by 2017 Summit	**800 bilateral projects among Higher Education Institutions and 60 capacity building projects carried out.** *[In 2015-2016: 613 HEI and 47 capacity building projects carried out]* **10 000 individual mobilities from Partner Countries funded.** *[In 2015-2016: 7 500 individual mobilities from Partner Countries' funded]* **200 Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees full scholarships awarded.** *[In 2014-2016: 164 Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees full scholarships awarded]* **2 000 projects, 1 300 teachers and 800 schools connected via eTwinning Plus.** *[In 2014-2016: 1546 projects, 938 teachers and 426 schools connected]*
Target by 2020	**Over 1 200 bilateral projects among Higher Education Institutions and 110 capacity building projects carried out.** **Over 20 000 mobility opportunities in the field of education.** **Around 350 Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees full scholarships awarded.** **Over 3 000 projects, 2 600 teachers and 1 000 schools connected via eTwinning Plus24.** **Improved quality and relevance of education systems, modernised teaching methods and reinforced employability of graduates.** **Progress in adoption and effective implementation of legislation and policies in line with the European Higher Education Area and Bologna principles.** **Increased internationalisation and excellence of higher education systems in Partner Countries.**

☑ Reachability of the Milestone by 2017 Summit:

The realization of bilateral projects among Higher Education Institutions and individual mobilities for training and exchange in the field of education has not been launched yet. This can lead to underuse of the opportunities envisaged under the milestone by 2017. No communication on the enhanced support of joint master degrees has begun (judging by the media activity of the Tempus office in Ukraine). Still, the relevance of the milestone's goals is doubtless: the Ukrainian youth considers education the main guarantee of successful career and a condition for personal growth (47.3% in 2016). The milestone is extremely important for development of society and higher education institutions in Ukraine (considering new challenges in the conditions of autonomization of Ukrainian HEIs).

➦ Achievability and ambitiousness of the Target by 2020:

The targets are complex, clear and measurable (it will be easy to monitor and analyze the effectiveness indicators). Their achievement depends, to a significant extent, on the initiative and capacities of HEIs as well as collegiate and professional communities at the national level. As shown by data on used quotas of bilateral projects and capacity building projects, Ukraine makes full use of the provided opportunities (116 projects supported and 330 applications submitted in 2016). Data on Joint Master Degrees scholarships awarded demonstrates the same trend (in 2016, 36 students were awarded scholarships). However, taking into account the diversification percentage among the six EaP countries, the individual mobilities (1,583 in 2016) indicate a problem of unused quotas by Ukraine, questioning continuation of assistance at the mentioned volumes until 2020.

✏️ **Comments and suggestions:**

Ukrainian institutions (HEIs, MoES an agencies attached to the Ministry, in particular the National Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education) will be able to use possible projects quota if there will be a complex strategy developed and implemented to inform the communities of students and scholars on the new proposed opportunities. Critically important for that will be collaboration with CSOs (at the regional and local levels), HEIs' associations (unions of the presidents of national and private HEIs), students' circles and dedicated media. It is worth mentioning that the displaced HEIs in Ukraine (among those who have won support projects and capacity building projects) are well represented in project activities. In particular, displaced HEIs received financial support for five of the total 184 projects in Ukraine in 2014-2016.

Milestone by 2017 Summit	**Over 20 000 young people/youth workers from Partner Countries involved in Erasmus+25.** *[In 2014-2015: 14.000 young people/youth workers involved]*
Target by 2020	**Over 60 000 young people and youth workers from Partner Countries took part in Erasmus+.** **Partner Countries' youth benefits from facilitated inter-cultural dialogue and increased employability and civic skills.** **Enhanced openness/inclusiveness in EU-Partner Countries cooperation.**

☑️ **Reachability of the Milestone by 2017 Summit:**

The milestone is ambitious, clear and measurable enough (it will be easy to monitor and analyze the effectiveness indicators). A nearly 30-percent increase in the number of young people/youth workers to participate in exchange programs in 2017 was suggested (up to over 20,000 from 14,000 in 2015). The existing network of youth centers, youth workers and CSOs that professionally participate in Erasmus+ makes it possible to fully use the opportunities provided by the framework document in 2017.

🔄 **Achievability and ambitiousness of the Target by 2020:**

Taking into account the milestone by 2017 indicators, the goal of involving 60,000 young people and youth workers from the EaP countries in Erasmus+ is quite achievable and ambitious. The main challenge on the way to successful realization of the target by Ukraine / Ukrainian stakeholders is the level of youth awareness of the program's opportunities (as of 2015, only 10% of young Ukrainians had ever heard of this program, and mere 1% had taken advantage of it). This can result in that the offered quotas will be underused, and the volume of support and opportunities offered by the program for the EaP region and Ukraine in particular reduced accordingly (Georgia is the leader in youth involvement in the program).

✏️ **Comments and suggestions:**

Another challenge for the implementation of this block of goals is the limited technical capacities of CSOs (registered in Ukraine) regarding international financial operations and financial management of projects implemented in conjunction with other countries.

Milestone by 2017 Summit	**Youth employment and transition to work strategies and action plans/road maps adopted in at least two or more countries.** *[Work in progress]*
Target by 2020	**Partner Countries reduce youth unemployment and NEETs27 rates.** **Partner Countries develop employment and transition strategies and skills-development actions.**

☑️ **Reachability of the Milestone by 2017 Summit:**

The milestone is relevant in view of both the world's trend of increased youth unemployment rate and the national context: involving young people in the country's socioeconomic life is critical for reforms that are conducted in the conditions of the war and political instability. Program-based or strategic approaches to this problem in Ukraine are

absent. The reachability of the milestone is doubtful due to the weak legal framework for employment of the youth as a social group in Ukraine. There is an effective document that fragmentarily includes youth employment issues: the Action Plan for 2016-2017 on the implementation of the Strategy of Overcoming Poverty (approved by Cabinet of Ministers Resolution of Aug. 8, 2016 No. 573-p). Recommendations are provided on how to set up mechanisms for collaboration of HEIs with employers (improvement of conditions for practical training of students) and compensate employer's contribution for mandatory state social insurance in case of hiring young people and facilitating activities of youth centers and NGOs aimed at ensuring youth employment (information and education activities in collaboration with local authorities).

↪ Achievability and ambitiousness of the Target by 2020:
The absence of quantitative indicators to measure achievement of the target makes it somewhat less ambitious. However, if Ukraine is able to develop an appropriate youth employment strategy, it could become an ambitious task by 2020.

✎ Comments and suggestions:
To reach the milestone by 2017 Summit, efforts should to be mobilized and a complex strategy developed that in the first place would provide the youth with new opportunities through:
   1) Liberalization of legislation on youth entrepreneurship;
   2) Coordination of activities of business associations in Ukraine (which work independently on investment attraction to youth startups).

The target by 2020 in its current wording is achievable, provided the Government has political will to fulfil these commitments. Ukraine has to suggest a clear list of responsible actors at the national level (and fix it in relevant strategic document). The list of main actors from among Partner Countries' central executive agencies (MoES and the Social Policy Ministry in the case of Ukraine) needs to be complemented with the MoEDT and the Youth and Sports Ministry.

Milestone by 2017 Summit	**The quality and attractiveness of vocational education and training, and in particular its responsiveness to labour market needs, starts to improve.** *[Bilateral programmes in place and supported by Torino process]*
Target by 2020	**Enrolment in vocational education and training is increased.** **The percentage of vocational education and training graduates in employment or further study after six months is increased.** **Reduced mismatch between skills and labour market demands.**

☑ Reachability of the Milestone by 2017 Summit:
The milestone is not clearly defined, since the percentages of expected increase in the enrolment in, and graduates from, vocational education institutions are not specified.

The system of Vocational Education and Training (VET) is a successful tool of good and fast assistance to citizens in acquiring knowledge and skills for employment. In Ukraine, the VET tools attract special attention because of additional factors (internally displaced persons and Anti-Terrorist Operation warriors who returned from the front and have special physical needs in certain cases).

↪ Achievability and ambitiousness of the Target by 2020:
In its essence, the target is relevant and important to be achieved. However, its description is vague, since it lacks clear criteria for target achievement.

✎ Comments and suggestions:
Ukraine is presently the only one of the VET consortium's 25 countries to have a subregional VET strategy implemented, what may be marked as progress. In this case, the extent education institutions and local governments undertake responsibility for performance (not only the central executive agencies mentioned in this Joint Staff Working Document) is increased. Additional challenges for achievement of the goals include the low effectiveness of communication on opportunities of vocational education and training, their low attractiveness and the low level of program and equipment

innovation offered by vocational education and training institutions. On the other hand, the Government of Ukraine actively supports development of vocational education and training (there are official statements by Prime Minister Volodymyr Hroysman and other Government officials, including statements concerning adoption of relevant draft laws).

➕ Additional EaP goals:

It would be worth adding the following target by 2020 to the deliverable on "Young people's skills, entrepreneurship and employability": "Participation of the youth in decision making at the local, national and international levels on issues that have an impact on the lives of young people in Partner Countries increased." According to polls, only 11% of young Ukrainians in 2016 said they considered their own influence on decision making in the processes of national or local policy development real. The youth marginalization leads to apathy young people take in their stance toward the social and political life of their community, region and country. A package of proposals on institutional tools and decisions to solve this problem has been already developed, and the challenge is the implementation and execution of, e.g., the European Charter on the Participation of Young People in Local and Regional Life (initiated by the Council of Europe and ratified by Ukraine).

👤 Yaroslav Minki, Youth NGO "STAN", UNP Working Group 4

Milestone by 2017 Summit	**Participation of three Partner Countries in the Creative Europe programme, and advanced preparation for at least one more to join in 2018.** *[Currently three Partner Countries already participate]*
Target by 2020	**Reinforced cooperation under the Creative Europe network in the Neighbourhood.**

☑ Reachability of the Milestone by 2017 Summit:

The possibility to participate in the Creative Europe program has activated all key players on the cultural field and encouraged formation of new international links. The program's applicants set up new partnerships with organizations in the EU in order to become eligible for the program. Negotiations are in progress, and additional grant programs are being used to establish mobility between the applicants.

↪ Achievability and ambitiousness of the Target by 2020:

The target's formulation is not ambitious enough. Because organizations from Ukraine may not be the main applicants for the program, they are unable to promote their own ideas and innovations to the full extent. After the first wave of grant applications, some organizations stop being active under this global program.

✎ Comments and suggestions:

The insufficient democratization of processes and the lack of transparency with the Creative Europe program in Ukraine are a challenge. The program has no influence on policy making by the Culture Ministry of Ukraine. The weak linkage between the program's national office and regions does not help activate cultural initiatives at a lower level.

A more important goal would be to extend the Creative Europe network in Ukraine and support projects initiated just by Ukrainian organizations.

Milestone by 2017 Summit	**Increased participation in international cultural cooperation initiatives and synergies between public and private actors.** *[Work in progress; between April 2016 and October 2016, 66 events were held, with 6709 direct participants]*
Target by 2020	**Cultural and creative sectors are integrated into cultural policy reforms and strategic document of Partner Countries.** **Civil society and other relevant non-state actors in Partner Countries actively participate in the formulation of culture policies and in capacity building activities.**

☑ Reachability of the Milestone by 2017 Summit:

The program provides opportunities for about 10,000 local cultural field players to participate in international cultural cooperation initiatives and public/private synergy initiatives.

↪ Achievability and ambitiousness of the Target by 2020:

With substantial efforts by both civil society and authorities, achievement of the target is realistic. In previous years, EU-EaP Culture Program I helped develop local and national level cultural policies as well as formed Partner Countries' demand for a common cultural policy in the region. EU-EaP Culture Program II has focused on the national level.

However, the program's impact on the cultural policy at both local and national levels is low. Stakeholders at the regional level remain almost unengaged. The program's weak connection with the state sector of culture (at all levels) is one more obstacle on the way to achieve the target.

✎ Comments and suggestions:

The forces of program's beneficiaries at all levels, state sector key players and local authorities need to be joined to work out cultural policies in Ukraine at the national, regional and local levels.

✚ Additional goals:

We recommend adding the following target by 2020 to this deliverable: "The program inclusiveness level is increased, and the inclusion of ethnic, social, religious and sexual minorities into the cultural and creative sectors at all levels assisted."

👤 Ivan Kulchytsky, Agency of European Innovations, UNP Working Group 4

Milestone by 2017 Summit	**Active participation of Partner Countries in researcher mobility and exchanges.** *[In 2014-2015: 129 EaP research fellowships; 43 participating institutions]*
Target by 2020	**Increased number of Partner Countries' researchers and research organisation benefitting from opportunities for mobility, training, and cooperation under Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions.**

☑ Reachability of the Milestone by 2017 Summit:

Ukrainian researchers account for the biggest number of successful projects under the Horizon 2020 program just within the framework of Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions (19 projects of total 61 and 28 participating organizations of total 79). Owing to the quite active operation of national contact points and partner organizations with the EU, the number of researcher who use the Horizon 2020 opportunities is growing.

↪ Achievability and ambitiousness of the Target by 2020:

The target is formulated too generally. One more goal may be added to it: on setting up national centers and portals of EURAXESS. Their task would be to supply information on current offers of domestic and foreign grants and scholarships

and rules in an EaP country for the stay and employment of a scientist from abroad as well as give all necessary advices for scientists going abroad. The EURAXESS centers would help foreign scientists to adapt themselves in the country of stay. This goal is relevant for those EaP countries which have signed an Association Agreement to Horizon 2020. Moldova, which has already created a national EURAXESS portal and nominated 25 EURAXESS centers, can be an example.

✏️ Comments and suggestions:

The capacity of Ukrainian universities, research institutes and innovation companies to take in interested researches from the EU and third countries needs to be increased. Besides the necessity to raise the scientific and technological level of these organizations, this will require solving a number of issues on remuneration of foreign experts who stay and work in Ukrainian organizations for a long period under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions. We suggest the following targets for Ukraine:
- ▸ The capacity of Ukrainian organizations to take in foreign researches under exchange programs increased;
- ▸ National EURAXESS portal and centers in place.

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EAP EUROPEAN SCHOOL

👤 **Maria Symonova,** "Clean Universities" Anticorruption Campaign, UNP Working Group 4

Milestone by 2017 Summit	**Study on setting up the school finalised and plan for establishment developed.** **Proposed didactic programme, governance and funding arrangements developed.**
Target by 2020	**EaP European school set up.**

☑ Reachability of the Milestone by 2017 Summit:

The school's development program and curriculum are at the stage of forming. The decision on the school location – Tbilisi, Georgia – is a result of negotiations between the European Commission and the Government of Georgia in 2017. Lunching such a mechanism will draw international attention the EaP region. Ukraine had a possibility but failed to reconsider its role in the neighborhood policy and suggest new leadership models in the region based on the research potential of the EaP school.

↪ Achievability and ambitiousness of the Target by 2020:

Taking into account the planned pace of preparations for the school opening, the probability of achieving the target by 2020 is high.

✎ Comments and suggestions:

Since Ukraine is not the implementing country under the target, we suggest that Ukrainian stakeholders (MoES, Foreign Ministry and Ukrainian HEIs) would provide well-elaborated proposals on the school curriculum content and support the project with expertise at the stage of its development and implementation.

Milestone by 2017 Summit	**The setting of the network of Partner Countries' universities delivering EU-focused programmes in progress.**
Target by 2020	**Network of Partner Countries' universities will be up and running focusing on EU studies and excellence in teaching.**

☑ Reachability of the Milestone by 2017 Summit:

Setting up such a network will accumulate efforts of research institutions throughout the region in order to train professionals in the field of European integration and cooperation with the EU, as well as to better study and solidify the Partner Countries' European integration narrative as a priority and prospective way of development.

↪ Achievability and ambitiousness of the Target by 2020:

The target is achievable and quite ambitious. We recommend that quantitative indicators would be suggested to measure success and work contents proposed for the research networks (in particular through support of the agenda of policies development by the Governments of EaP countries, including Ukraine).

✏️ Comments and suggestions:

The milestone and the target formulations are quite clear, measurable and realistic. The key challenge is the expert and managerial capacity of HEIs and curricula in Ukraine to jump at this window of opportunity and propose an agenda for the network's operation. We recommend holding a series of preparatory communication events and consultations with relevant Ukrainian HEIs in order to learn their readiness to participate in this network and receive feedback on their expectations, wishes and fears.

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RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

👤 **Ivan Kulchytsky,** Agency of European Innovations, UNP Working Group 4

Milestone by 2017 Summit	**Fully functional associations of at least four Partner Countries to Horizon 2020.**
Target by 2020	**Associated countries' research and innovation stakeholders integrated in relevant EU networks/platforms, and alignment of associated countries' and EU's strategies for research and innovation.** **Full access of Partner Countries to all Horizon 2020 funding schemes for individual researchers/innovators.**

☑ Reachability of the Milestone by 2017 Summit:

Ukraine and three other Partner Countries (Moldova, Georgia and Armenia) have already signed their Association Agreements to Horizon 2020. In accordance with the agreements, individual researchers/innovators from these countries have got full access to all Horizon 2020 funding schemes.

↪ Achievability and ambitiousness of the Target by 2020:

The target is formulated quite ambitiously and is relevant for other Partner Countries. The biggest challenge is the capacity of EaP countries' scientific and business communities to develop efficient cooperation with corresponding European networks and platforms, e.g., the European Technology Platforms.

✎ Comments and suggestions:

The biggest challenge for Ukraine is its capacity to develop a national research and innovation strategy in line with the best European standards. Ukraine is lacking a holistic systemic vision of evolution of scientific, technological and innovation activities, whereas the dialog on the matter with civil society and expert community goes largely just formally. The plans and proposals by the MoES and MoEDT need harmonization with each other. This lack of accord in actions of the governmental agencies also reflects on both the quality of new legislation and the duration of its passage through Parliament. As for the legislature, it needs to improve collaboration between at least three Parliamentary Committees, namely the Committee on Education and Science, the Committee on industrial Policy and Entrepreneurship and the Committee on Informatization and Communication.

Milestone by 2017 Summit	**Successful implementation of the Association of Ukraine to the Research and Training Programme of Euratom (2014-2018).**
Target by 2020	**Reinforced cooperation in nuclear research (fission – direct and indirect actions – and fusion).**

☑ Reachability of the Milestone by 2017 Summit:

There will be certain results, since Ukraine has had good traditions of cooperation with Euratom in last years. Ukraine has a considerable scientific, technological and production potential in this area, so European organizations are also interested in developing cooperation with Ukraine.

⤴ **Achievability and ambitiousness of the Target by 2020:**
This target is extremely relevant for Ukraine, since the expected results can have a direct impact on increasing the safety level of nuclear energy, which accounts for a significant share of Ukraine's energy balance. Another important result may be lesser dependence on Russia in the field of nuclear energy.

The target's ambitiousness level is difficult to characterize because it is formulated too generally and does not contain any specific indicators. It would be worth rewording the target as follows: "Reinforced cooperation in nuclear research (fission – direct and indirect actions – and fusion) and increased number of Euratom projects involving Ukrainian organizations."

✎ **Comments and suggestions:**
The main challenge is the necessity to organize effective work of the Ukraine-Euratom coordinating committees on fusion and nuclear safety.

Another challenge is the small number supported projects in which Ukraine participates. There is currently only one such project with €112,750 in financing of Ukrainian organization.

Ukraine has to develop a plan of implementation of its agreement on association to the Euratom Research and Training Program and approve it by a Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine. At the moment, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine shows significant activity in this matter. An example is the consultative project on strengthening the cooperation between Ukraine and the EU in nuclear technologies, which is coordinated by the NANU and received support of the European Commission in the context of Ukraine's acquisition of the associated member status under the Euratom Research and Training Program.

Milestone by 2017 Summit	**New coordination and support project of H2020, EaP Plus promoted; coordination platform fully operational.** *[Platform launched in September 2016]*
Target by 2020	**Substantially increased participation of Partner Countries in Horizon 2020.** *[Currently 103 retained H2020 participation]* **Science Technology and Innovation (STI) Policy Recommendations "EU-EaP beyond 2020" based on fact-finding reports for Partner Countries.** *[No such recommendations currently in place]* **Six new EU-EaP Innovation Clusters (one per country) established, and innovation managers in Partner Countries trained.** *[No such Clusters currently in place]*

☑ **Reachability of the Milestone by 2017 Summit:**
The project was kicked off on Sep. 1, 2016, and expecting any substantial results by now would be hardly reasonable. Horizon 2020 has huge competition, whereas its rate of success is lower than that of the 7th Framework Program. Nevertheless, the number of organizations from the EaP competing for participation in Horizon 2020 has grown significantly. Therefore, a big challenge is the capacity of organizations from Ukraine and other Partner Countries to become members of strong successful consortia, including the capacity to organize such consortia themselves and exercise the role of coordinator.

⤴ **Achievability and ambitiousness of the Target by 2020:**
The target is formulated very ambitiously and requires a lot of efforts to be achieved.

At the moment, no concept of new EU-EaP innovation clusters has been developed, so this issue will be most probably discussed in the near future.

As for the Science Technology and Innovation Policy Recommendations, these will be of course developed under the EaP Plus project. However, the realisticity and practical usefulness of such recommendations will be a challenge. It is especially important for Ukraine, because the earlier projects' experience shows that such recommendations had a formal character and Ukrainian governmental agencies did not take them into consideration

✎ Comments and suggestions:

It is also in the tideway of the new EU4Innovation initiative that was announced on Nov. 17, 2016. This initiative will be directed to improve employment opportunities and career prospects for researchers, fund competition-based research and innovation, increase the openness of national research, innovation and infrastructure programs, support the institutional capacity building for identification and implementation of good regulatory rules in research and innovation, as well as facilitate partnerships of researchers and industry.

Milestone by 2017 Summit	**Peer-reviews of at least four countries' research and innovation systems.** *[Process ongoing for the four countries]*
Target by 2020	**National public research and innovation systems improved in performance, competitiveness.**

☑ Reachability of the Milestone by 2017 Summit:

Ukraine has received the findings of the European audit of the national research and innovation system, which was publicly presented on Dec. 19, 2016. All the audit's recommendations are realistic for Ukraine and largely in line with provisions of the Law of Ukraine «On scientific and scientific-technological activities.» The process of reforming the national research and innovation system has been launched: the Identification Committee on Science was selected, which competitively formed the Scientific Committee of the National Council of Ukraine on Science and Technology Development.

↪ Achievability and ambitiousness of the Target by 2020:

The target is formulated somewhat generally. Nevertheless, it is quite real to have basic reforms of the national research and innovation system implemented during 2017-2018 in order to more efficiently use the last opportunities of Horizon 2020 and better prepare for participation in the Ninth EU Framework Program, which will replace Horizon 2020.

Procedures for implementation of recommendations of the audit on reforming the national research and innovation system of Ukraine have become the main challenges. Another challenge is innovation projects funding tools, which is differently approached by the two key ministries: the MoES and the MoEDT.

✎ Comments and suggestions:

It would be expedient to add specific goals, e.g., like those in the audit findings on the national research and innovation system:
▸ Work out a Development Strategy for the system of scientific, technological and innovation activities;
▸ By 2020, distribute 25% of all available state funds intended for R&D through competitive project financing.

Milestone by 2017 Summit	**High-capacity broadband internet network for research and education being established across Partner Countries.**
Target by 2020	**Six National research and education networks in the region integrated in pan-European GÉANT network, decreasing digital divide.** **Eduroam deployed and integration with GÉANT services stimulated.**

☑ Reachability of the Milestone by 2017 Summit:

The milestone is quite realistic and partially achieved. Ukraine, along with other EaP countries have joined the pan-European GÉANT network with support of EaPConnect. The EaP countries are also in the process in connection to Eduroam, too (access points created). The main challenges include increasing the capacity of Ukrainian researchers to use state-of-the-art digital services in their work and connecting a wider circle of universities and research institutes to Eduroam.

↪ Achievability and ambitiousness of the Target by 2020:

The target is very relevant for Ukraine, especially in the context of increased interest of Ukraine and Europe in developing cooperation in digital economy. The target is formulated ambitiously enough for the time being but most

probably will be revised next year due to the adoption of the Digital Agenda for Ukraine, based on which new goals and tasks will be added to this target.

✎ Comments and suggestions:

The milestone and target formulations need to be harmonized and/or brought in line with goals envisaged by the HDM initiative, which EaP countries have been promoting since 2014 with support from the DG Connect and the DG DEVCO.

ANNEXES

I. ABBREVIATIONS:

AEO – authorized economic operator
ATO – Anti-Terrorist Operation in Eastern Ukraine
CBRN safety – chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear safety
CCI – Chamber of Commerce and Industry
CEA – central executive agency
CFSP – Common Foreign and Security Policy
CIMIC – Civil-Military Cooperation of the Armed Forces of Ukraine
CMU – Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine
CSDP – Common Security and Defense Policy
CSO – civil society organization
DCFTA – Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area
DPA – designated protected area
EAA – European Environment Agency
EaP – Eastern Partnership
EC – European Commission
EEAS – European External Action Service
EIB – European Investment Bank
EU – European Union
EUAM – European Union Advisory Mission
FDI – foreign direct investment
GHG – greenhouse gas
GS AFU – General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine
HEI – higher education institution
IBM – integrated boarder management
ICT – information and computer technologies
IDP – internally displaced persons
IER – Institute for Economic Research and Policy Consulting
IFIs – international financial institutions
IMF – International Monetary Fund
MoD – Ministry of Defense of Ukraine
MoEDT – Ministry of Economic Development and Trade of Ukraine
MoES – Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine
MoI – Ministry of Interior of Ukraine
NABU – National Anticorruption Bureau of Ukraine
NACP – National Agency on Corruption Prevention
NAPA – National Academy for Public Administration under the President of Ukraine
NGO – non-governmental organization
OECD – Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
ORDLO – Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts' territories with special regime of local government
PPD – public private dialogue
PPP – public-private partnership
RBMP – River Basin Management Plan
RECP – Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production
SAPO – Specialized Anticorruption Prosecutor's Office
SEAP – Sustainable Energy Action Plan
SES – State Emergency Service of Ukraine
SME – small and medium-sized enterprise
SPM – sanitary and phytosanitary measures
UNDP – United Nations Development Program
UNECE – United Nation Economic Commission for Europe
UNEP – United Nations Environment Program
UNIDO – United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNP EaP CSF – Ukrainian National Platform of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum
USR – Unified State Register
VLAP – Visa Liberalization Action Plan
WFD – EU Water Framework Directive

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Olha Mashtaler graduated from the National University of "Kyiv-Mohyla Academy" with an MA in Political Science and Ivan Franko Lviv National University with a Specialist's degree in law, and pursued postgraduate studies in Political Science at the National University of "Kyiv-Mohyla Academy". She worked for 6 years in NGOs, including the National Contact Group of Transparency International (2006-2008). Under Olga`s direction, a number of election and anti-corruption projects were implemented. She also worked as an MP assistant. In 2011-2015 she was mainly engaged in research in Sweden, Poland, Finland and Austria. Since autumn 2016 she has been working as the Secretary of the UNP under the Civic Synergy project.

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