

Memorandum of Cooperation

Between civil society organizations of Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine

Preamble

Profound changes have happened in Eastern Europe in the last decade that require establishing a new format for cooperation of Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia (UMG) on the way of European integration, to promote peer-to-peer exchange, policy coordination and mutual support in AA implementation and the dialogue with the EU institutions.

This trilateral format should be further institutionalised and include regular consultations and joint actions on the governmental, parliamentary and civil society levels. It should exist in parallel to and without jeopardising the existing Eastern Partnership multilateral structure.

UMG should conduct discussions, experience exchange, and comparative assessments of their progress in democracy, the rule of law and good governance, should facilitate trade and build a common market with free movement of goods, services, capital and persons; develop connectivity, transport and communication infrastructure; cooperate in energy, environment and social policies.

The civil society platforms of three countries called at the Association Exchange Forum held in Kiev on November 15 on “The Governments of UMG: to launch trilateral high-level cooperation formats and thematic consultations, and a joint secretariat; The Parliaments of UMG: to intensify cooperation within the Inter-Parliamentary Assembly, and to focus it on peer learning in AA legislative implementation; The EU: to support UMG trilateral cooperation, institutionalise the enhanced dialogue in the EU+3 format, and to foster positive competition among UMG in AA implementation;”

The three AA civil society platforms and the three EaP CSF national platforms have adopted joint declaration at the mentioned forum to engage in structured cooperation, hold regular joint meetings and promote common projects among civil society organisations.

This memorandum is developed in the spirit and full support of the Declaration and paves ways for practical realisation of its goals and objectives.

Joint Structure

The parties (Three AA civil society platforms and three EaP National Platforms) decided to create:

Civil Society Association Forum, a permanent body for consultation, cooperation and guiding joint actions by civil society platforms of Associated States of Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine.

Direction of Cooperation

The Association Forum will elaborate the civil society strategy and action plan for deepening cooperation and integration between three Associated countries.

The Association Forum will also develop a vision for creation of an institutionalized cooperation format of three countries and advocate with the governments for its realization.

The Association Forum will also advocate and work for the development and further evolution of the “EU+3” format of the dialogue between three AA states and the EU, which should in the midterm perspective forge ground for de facto integration of the mentioned states with the EU.

The Association Forum will join the efforts of the civil society in three Associated countries to advocate and permanently “knocking the door” of EU for obtaining recognition of the European Perspective of three Associated states.

The Association Forum will conduct a joint monitoring of the implementation of the Association agreement via exchange of information and findings, conducting joint comparative analyses of the progress achieved in reforms and AA implementation on all three countries and consecutive recommendations aimed at equalizing the rates of three countries with European standards and positive synchronization of their reform process.

Forms of Cooperation

The Association Form will establish working groups in all important directions as Democracy and Human Rights, Trade and economic Convergence, Social Cohesion and social dialogue, connectivity, security and countering the hybrid threats, sectoral cooperation.

Establish the task force for conducting dialogue with the governments of three countries, EU Institutions and with EU Member states.

Organize seminars, roundtables and conferences related on themes of above mentioned objectives related to joining forces of three states for their Europeanisation and advancing on the European way.

Done in Brussels, on 4th of December 2019

Signatories:

On behalf Of EaP CSF National Platforms

On behalf of National delegations to the EU-Georgia, EU-Ukraine, EU-Moldova Civil Society Platforms