



OPEN SOCIETY GEORGIA FOUNDATION
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საქართველოს პოლიტიკის ინსტიტუტი
GEORGIAN INSTITUTE OF POLITICS

Association Agreement Monitoring Group: Moldova, Ukraine, Georgia

**Joint workshop
27-28 November
Odessa, Ukraine**

Representatives from Moldova, Ukraine and Georgia AA Monitoring Groups are kindly invited to participate in a joint workshop, aimed at:

- sharing experiences of monitoring reforms in their countries,
- discussing best practices of advocacy efforts at the EU level,
- and strengthening effective writing skills for better communication of monitoring results.

Background

This initiative is a continuation of a project that started in 2016 with Open Society Georgia Foundation (OSGF), Soros Foundation-Moldova (SF-M) and the International Renaissance Foundation (IRF) with the support from OSF Eurasia Program (EP) and the Open Society European Policy Institute (OSEPI). The research and advocacy project aimed at supporting reform implementation in Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine and designed to strengthen research partnerships and capacity for knowledge generation, knowledge exchange, and knowledge uptake in selected three Associated countries. In the framework of this project, the national foundations produced a series of policy briefs assessing reforms in the areas of justice, anti-corruption and anti-discrimination, as well as other areas of concern for the specific national context. Based on the success of the implemented activities, this initiative proposes to continue and advance policy monitoring in the framework of AA implementation, ensuring continuation of methodological consistency and promoting exchange of ideas and experience between different partners from the EaP associated countries.

About the workshop

The event will consist of **three parts**: closed workshop with experts from Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine, a public round-table discussion and a training.

The workshop will focus on reforms ongoing in the three countries: what is the status of the reforms implementation, what are the main challenges, and what is the role of civil society in each of the three countries. In particular, participants will be asked to share how they promoted the reforms, what tools can be used to do that, what worked and what did not. In addition, experts, national coordinators will evaluate experiences of the past years of advocating the select AA reforms at national and the EU levels and will discuss how to improve advocacy efforts at national and regional level.

The event will also include a round-table discussion, open to the local civil society activists, academia, media and international organizations. The discussions will be framed along the topics of anti-corruption, and justice and rule of law, which were chosen as priorities by national coordinators and expert teams for AA monitoring.

Finally, the training will focus on writing policy briefs in the areas specific to each country's AA implementation; and effective writing skills, aimed to enhance advocacy efforts and communicate the monitoring results more effectively. At the end of this training, participants will be able to:

- identify two types of policy briefs (advocacy and objective);
- describe the characteristics of a policy brief;
- describe the structure and contents of a policy brief; and
- conceptualize a policy brief about specific issue;
- prepare effective written materials for an advocacy visit.

Agenda:

November 26 – arrival to Odessa;

November 27 Workshops on AA implementation monitoring and advocacy

10.00

Welcome:

Kornely Kakachia, Georgian Institute of Politics

Olga Kvashuk, IRF

Introduction, getting to know the group, *Andrew Mannaseh*

Country presentations, *Kornely Kakachia, Renata Skardziute-Kereselidze*

10.15

11.30 Coffee break

12.00

Roundtable discussion on AA implementation: public event, inviting local experts, academia and media

Reform in Ukraine, Moldova and Georgia: status and the main challenges – do they vary considerably from country to country or is there significant overlap?

	How receptive are the publics in the three countries to the reforms? How can civil society catalyze the process of reform implementation? <i>Moderator: Denys Kuzmin, Odessa I. I. Mechnikov National University</i>
13.30	Lunch
14.30	Monitoring and advocating change: the ongoing reforms and tools for their promotion. Experience sharing: matrix method, stakeholders influence map <i>Facilitators: Kornely Kakachia, Renata Skardziute-Kereselidze</i>
16.00	Coffee break
16.15	Advocacy planning and experience sharing. This session will consider and situate the forthcoming advocacy on reform priorities by discussing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The essential elements of a good advocacy strategy - EU power analysis - Advocacy timing and the EU policy calendar - Approaches to managing advocacy meetings - Dos and Don'ts for advocacy visits - Feedback from participants from previous advocacy visits <i>Facilitator: Iskra Kirova</i>
17.30	End of working day
November 28	Trainings
09.30	Writing effective policy briefs <i>Kornely Kakachia and Andrew Manasseh</i> Session I : Principles of Policy Briefs – format, structure and objectives
11.00	Coffee break
11.15	Session II: Principles of clear writing for policy briefs. Input on clarity, precision. Techniques for drafting and proofreading texts
13.00	Lunch
14.00	Session III: Structure and content. Topic sentences, paragraph and sentence structure and key messages
15.30	Coffee break
15.45	Session IV: Drafting and editing tasks with feedback and coaching
17.00	Evaluation and follow up
17.30	End of working day

Departure

Practical information:

Organizers will cover travel and accommodation costs for training participants. In addition, participants will receive 50 USD/day per diems for 2 days.

Workshop venue and accommodation: [Alexandrovskiy Hotel](#), 12, Aleksandrovskiy Avenue, 65045 Odessa, Ukraine.

In case of further questions, Please feel free to contact us anytime: Renata@gip.ge, +995 595 292215 (hotel, logistics) or kakachia@gip.ge, +995 599 237 429 (Training).

We are looking forward to seeing you!

The GIP team

Trainers:

Kornely Kakachia

Kornely Kakachia is Professor of Political Science at Ivane Javakishvili Tbilisi State University, Georgia, and Director of Tbilisi based think tank Georgian Institute of Politics. His current research focuses on Georgian domestic and foreign policy, security issues of the wider Black Sea area and comparative party politics. He was a recipient of IREX and OSI fellowships and was a visiting fellow at Harvard University's Black Sea Security program, (2009–2010) Harriman Institute, Columbia University (2011) and The Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies.

Andrew Manasseh

Andrew has over 25 years management and training experience in Europe and Asia. He ran professional communications training for the British Council (the UK's official cultural relations organisation) in Asia and central Europe before being transferred to Brussels.

His management experience includes regional business development for the British Council and director level management of a media agency. He has managed and delivered training programmes for civil servants, diplomats and senior managers from the public sector, governments and corporate clients in Europe, Asia and the Middle East.

Andrew has trained government officials and civil servants from Bosnia & Herzegovina, Slovenia, Kosovo, Serbia, Montenegro and Armenia. He brings insight into how meetings and negotiations work in the EU institutions in Brussels.

Iskra Kirova

Iskra Kirova is a senior policy analyst at the Open Society European Policy Institute, responsible for EU policy advocacy and analysis on Eurasia. She supports the Open Society Foundations in advancing human rights and the rule of law through EU policies, legislation, and political influence.

From 2009 to 2014, Kirova worked for the International Crisis Group as EU advocacy and research analyst, conducting and helping develop Crisis Group's advocacy activities on conflict prevention and resolution. Previously, she served as research associate and later a fellow at the USC Center on Public Diplomacy in Los Angeles, publishing on EU affairs, media, civil society, and conflict resolution. Kirova also has experience working for the European Commission's Directorate-General for External Relations on European Neighborhood Policy, and as a research assistant at the NATO Parliamentary Assembly on non-proliferation issues and conflict resolution in Eastern Europe.

Kirova graduated from the University of Southern California with a master's degree in public diplomacy and holds another master's in international relations from Sofia University in Bulgaria. She speaks Bulgarian and English fluently and has working knowledge of Russian, French, and German.