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The Role of Civil Society in DCFTA Implementation in Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine



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საქართველოს პოლიტიკური ინსტიტუტი
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ABOUT

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List of Abbreviations

AA	Association Agreement
CCI	Chamber of Commerce and Industry
COSME	Competitiveness of Small and Medium Enterprises
COVID-19	SARS-CoV-2 virus
CSF	Civil Society Forum
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
DCFTA	Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement
EAP	Eastern Partnership
EBA	European Business Association
EEN	European Enterprise Network
EU	European Union
GEOSTAT	Georgian National Statistics Office
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
NGO	Non-governmental organization
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
SME	Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises
SPS	Sanitary and Phytosanitary Standards
TBT	Technical Barriers to Trade
ODIMM	Organizația Pentru Dezvoltarea Sectorului Întreprinderilor Mici și Mijlocii
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USD	United States Dollar
WNISEF	Western NIS Enterprise Fund

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Foreword

This project has researched the role of civil society in the challenging task of promoting the possibilities for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to profit from the opportunities offered by the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Areas (DCFTAs) between the European Union and Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine.

The first observation of all three country reports of the present study is that SMEs account for around 99% of all enterprises, and this huge percentage is testimony to the importance of the so-called SME sector. However, this is not such a pertinent indicator for assessing how far SMEs may profit from the DCFTAs. Obviously very large numbers of these SMEs are far removed indeed from any practical interest in international trade, including with the EU (small retail trade, purely local services, small family farms, etc.).

The three reports nonetheless provide a valuable and systematic overview of the activities of the CSOs that are highly active in all three countries, contrary to the situation in some other Eastern European states (essentially authoritarian ones where CSOs are suppressed or limited to non-political activity).

While active, civil society is reported to have only limited impact on basic trends, there are calls for more precisely targeted activities, such as to help SMEs in manufacturing to adapt to European technical standards, including for example laboratory facilities for agri-food products.

Unfortunately, data does not exist to assess the numbers and precise sectors of DCFTA-relevant SMEs. This could, indeed, be the subject of some next research project, to be done in the same format for all 'Association Trio' states. One can have in mind small-scale honey producers and vineyards that need well developed cooperative structures to access EU markets with higher-valued output. For the manufacturing sector it would be interesting to research what kind of products are, or can plausibly, be, produced in these three countries to access the EU market. This links to the major topic of cross-country supply chain organisation (much easier for Ukraine and Moldova directly bordering the EU, than Georgia on the other side of the Black Sea). There is the broad hospitality domain serving the international tourism market, which is of great importance, most of all for Georgia. Here DCFTA is not so directly relevant, except for example in conditions to create safe and efficient civil aviation; however, it is indirectly relevant to the need to build a deserved reputation for good governance, and a sound rule of law is of capital importance - in addition to the undeniable attractions of delicious local cuisines.

A final note is that these comments are hinting at the scope for further research efforts. The present three reports are therefore a valuable beginning to what should become a series of increasingly specific and policy-relevant contributions.

Michael Emerson

Executive Summary

Over the last few years, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine have invested extensively in deeper political and economic integration with the European Union (EU), enhancing this formally since 2021 under the ‘Association Trio’ initiative. For this objective, full usage of the potential of the provisions of the Association Agreements (AA) and the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Areas (DCFTA), have crucial significance. This report was developed following intensified efforts by the Association Trio countries to advance their economic integration with the European Union (EU). Given the broad nature and extensive list of legislative approximation, the implementation of the DCFTAs requires immense efforts. This includes the role of CSOs to support and facilitate communication between the state authorities and Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs), which in general lack competences, skills and resources to reap the benefits of the DCFTAs.

Despite the focus of both the EU and national governments on making progress on the path of DCFTA implementation, the degree to which the DCFTA benefits each country remains limited. Since joint – civil society and government – efforts are necessary to increase the speed and effectiveness of DCFTA implementation, this study identifies the role and positive added value of civil society actors in the process by drawing a comparative assessment and highlighting the good practices, as well as the limitations of civil society engagement in the three states. Based on research findings and cross-country discussion among civil society, field experts, and SMEs this report develops multi-stakeholder policy recommendations to boost the efficiency of civil society engagement.

The report is based on desk research conducted in Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine that mapped civil society implemented projects at both central and regional levels. 16 semi-structured interviews were conducted in the three countries with key stakeholders, representatives of civil society, SMEs, and government officials from relevant ministries. Interviews included questions related to the current role that civil society has in the process, as well as open questions regarding the perception of how civil society engagement can be improved and other important roles civil society that could be played in DCFTA implementation. Six focus groups were conducted in each country with civil society and SME representatives, with overall 48 participants from SMEs and CSOs. Preliminary findings of the research were presented at round-table discussions with field experts in each of the three countries and the feedback has been incorporated in this report.

Key findings of the study:

Georgia:

- Georgian civil society has limited capacity and resources to effectively advocate SME interests vis-à-vis the Government given the lack of DCFTA-related knowledge for engagement in meaningful deliberations. Overall, the projects that focus on the capacity-building of local civil society through training with field experts have proved to be successful as they allowed civic actors to engage in campaigns, provide advice to SMEs, and contribute to DCFTA implementation.
- There are gaps in the communication and coordination between Georgian civil society and SMEs as well as government representatives. Although there are diverse projects implemented by civil society that cover different aspects of DCFTA they remain largely unknown for both SMEs and government representatives. During interviews and focus groups, participants had difficulty in naming CSOs or projects on DCFTA issues.
- SMEs are the backbone of the Georgian economy, representing 99.7% of all active Georgian

enterprises. Yet, SMEs in Georgia suffer from low productivity and are mostly concentrated in low-value-added sectors. As a result, SMEs' engagement in global value chains and their exports to the EU remain limited. DCFTA has opened new opportunities for Georgian exports in both agricultural and non-agricultural sectors, however, the nominal values of exports in these new product categories is still very limited. The major limitations for SMEs' access to the EU market are the costly processes of adopting EU standards in practice - 'SPS' and 'TBT'. Other hampering factors include the lack of access to long-term and low-cost finance, including loans and funds needed to upscale production along with a lack of economies of scale and stable supplies of goods. A particular problem arises with costs associated with transporting goods to the EU as Georgia shares no land border with any EU member state.

Moldova:

- In Moldova, the role of civil society in informing SMEs about DCFTA components and opportunities is limited. Only a few business associations, which include a wide number of SMEs as part of their structure, are providing these services and information on opportunities for the SMEs. The ability of civil society to perform these activities is linked to the source of their financial resources – this is coming from external donors and is channelled mainly through government for the development of capacity-building programs and projects for SMEs, including on DCFTA.
- Moldovan think-tanks have an active policy dialogue with governmental authorities and EU institutions, using different formats of interaction (i.e. EU – Moldova Civil Society Platform meetings), advocating accelerated implementation of DCFTA provisions, but also pointing out key institutional and policy challenges in this regard.
- There are no precise statistics on SMEs' share in overall Moldovan exports to the EU. This complicates the assessment of the dynamics, needs, and challenges concerning SMEs exports to the EU for the government, civil society, and international donors, and therefore, limits the relevant stakeholders' capacity, especially of civil society, to address the SMEs' needs.

Ukraine:

- In Ukraine, the project team identified 35 civil society organisations that implemented 66 projects promoting exports to the EU in the DCFTA framework. The projects' activities were tentatively split into four categories- namely the preparation of analytical papers (41% of all projects), matchmaking (29%), organisation of public events (73%) and training (33%). These projects covered economic development (44% of all projects) or focused on specific areas, like agriculture and food industry (29%) and export procedures (24%).
- Focus groups and interviews in Ukraine have highlighted the particular effectiveness of matchmaking as it directly connects Ukrainian enterprises with European partners. The second most helpful activity is training, which gives valuable information on export procedures, etc. At first, after DCFTA came into force, projects aimed to give information on the new export rules. Later, the emphasis of many projects changed to informing about export opportunities and DCFTA implementation.

- Ukrainian civil society faces the following limitations: firstly, the lack of cooperation and coordination among civil society itself, which undermines lobbying efforts vis-à-vis the government. Secondly, communication gaps between civil society and SMEs results in low awareness among enterprises of the services that civil society can provide. Thirdly, lack of resources, including financial constraints and the availability of qualified personnel, limit the effectiveness of civil society engagement.

Research methodology

The methodology of the study comprised desk research, quantitative analysis of the relevant trade and economic indicators, consultations with international experts, and interviews with local experts as well as online focus groups with local civil society and SMEs.

We have used desk research for the civil society mapping exercise. The research teams of each country – Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine - looked into databases of ongoing projects by civil society on both central and regional levels within 2014-2021. We have defined civil society as “an organisational structure whose members serve the general interest through a democratic process, and which plays the role of mediator between public authorities and citizens”. Lists of such organisations include, but are not limited to, social partners (trades unions & employers’ groups), non-governmental organisations and grassroots organisations (e.g. youth & family groupings). Since the scope of DCFTA is extensive and comprehensive we have focused of one of the most important dimensions - exports in goods. In particular, we mapped the barriers that SMEs face in seeking to access EU markets.

Activity-related focus of civil society mapping:

- 1) Analysis: Research conducted by civil society related to DCFTA trends, challenges, etc.
- 2) Awareness raising: events conducted by civil society bringing relevant stakeholders (Government, SMEs, other civil society and associations) together to discuss challenges and prospects related to DCFTA implementation in target countries.
- 3) Capacity building: training conducted for SMEs by civil society in the target countries.
- 4) Matchmaking: civil society efforts to support local SMEs in the process of identifying partners in the European Single market.

Following civil society mapping, research teams in each country have conducted semi-structured online face-to-face interviews with key stakeholders: representatives of civil society, SMEs, and government officials. Interviews included questions related both to the current role civil society is having in the process, as well as open questions regarding perceptions of how civil society engagement can be improved and what other important roles civil society can play in DCFTA implementation. The findings of interviews were incorporated in the recommendations section.

In the final phase of the research, focus groups were conducted with civil society and SME representatives. Focus groups in each country deployed participants from civil society organisations operating on national and regional levels who had worked or were still working on DCFTA related matters, including both EaP CSF national platform members and other non-platform members.

CSOs and their ongoing and completed DCFTA-related projects are mapped according to the publicly available information which our research team could access through desk research. Consequently, the database constructed for the study does not cover activities of civil society representatives which are not public or are not accessible online.

The role of civil society in DCFTA implementation in Georgia

Introduction

Georgia's modern civil society emerged in the early 90s following the country's independence. The influence of civil society has grown over the years and was consolidated at the beginning of the 2000s, with civil society by then effectively advocating for a number of issues ranging from the environment to human rights and democracy and playing a key role in the 2003 Rose revolution (Asia Development Bank, 2011). Over the years civil society has strengthened both its scope of operations and its impact on policy-making. According to the EU Roadmap for Engagement with Civil Society in Georgia 2018-2020, the country enjoys a non-threatening enabling environment in terms of the legal framework and operational aspects (European Union 2018). There are over 26,000 non-profit organisations formally registered in Georgia, although only a handful number of those are functional and financially viable – most of these are based in the capital, Tbilisi with regional CSOs capacities still limited. It is difficult to estimate the exact number of organisations working on the DCFTA in Georgia since CSOs actions remain donor-driven and lack specialised expertise. Although there are both formal and informal channels for constructive cooperation between the government and civil society often these fail to generate tangible policy outcomes (USAID Civil Society Organisations Sustainability Index, 2020). Although civil society has made noticeable progress it struggles to build high levels of trust among the wider population.

This study reviews and assesses the role of civil society in raising the awareness of local SMEs about the opportunities of the EU-Georgia DCFTA agreement. The report is part of a comparative study conducted across the three EU's Associated states - Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine - aiming at identifying good and bad practices of civil society engagement in supporting DCFTA implementation, particularly through projects that target SMEs and contribute to their capacity building on issues of export of goods to the EU.

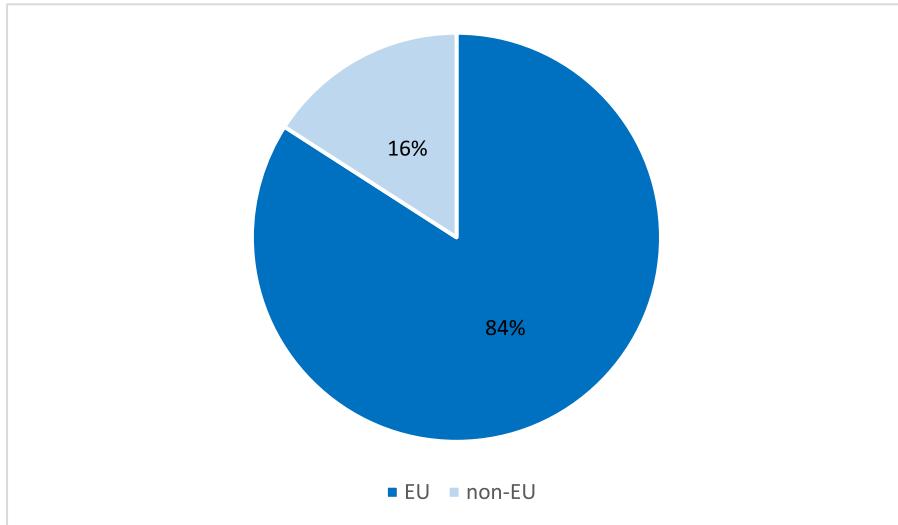
The research team in Georgia conducted five interviews with representatives of civil society and associations, as well as with state officials from the relevant ministries, such as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development, and Ministry of Environment and Agriculture of Georgia. In addition, two focus groups were conducted, one with the representatives of civil society and the other with SMEs. The quantitative assessment of the SME dynamics and SMEs trade and exports to the EU was conducted based on the data extracted from several country reports on the economic and trade dynamics of Georgia, as well as the Georgian National Statistics Office (Geostat). To avoid bias from Covid-19's impact the quantitative analysis covers the years from 2014 to 2019, i.e. the period from the provisional application of DCFTA to the year before the pandemic. For qualitative analysis, the project team assembled a database of projects operational in 2014-2021 that Georgian civil society implemented for raising awareness, capacity building and matchmaking among businesses, including SMEs, about the benefits offered by DCFTA and its full implementation.

The report is structured as follows: the first chapter describes the results of civil society mapping in Georgia, summarising the profiles, thematic scope, regional coverage and types of activities conducted by civil society working with SMEs and DCFTA matters. To examine the needs of SMEs, the second chapter offers a brief overview of the dynamics of SMEs in Georgia and their engagement in trade and exports with the EU. The third chapter discusses the successes and shortcomings of civil society engagement that is primarily based on the results of in-depth interviews and focus groups and closed discussions. Finally, the fourth chapter concludes with forward-looking and actionable recommendations for the Georgian government, civil society and the EU on how to better help SMEs reap the full benefits of DCFTA.

Results of civil society mapping in Georgia

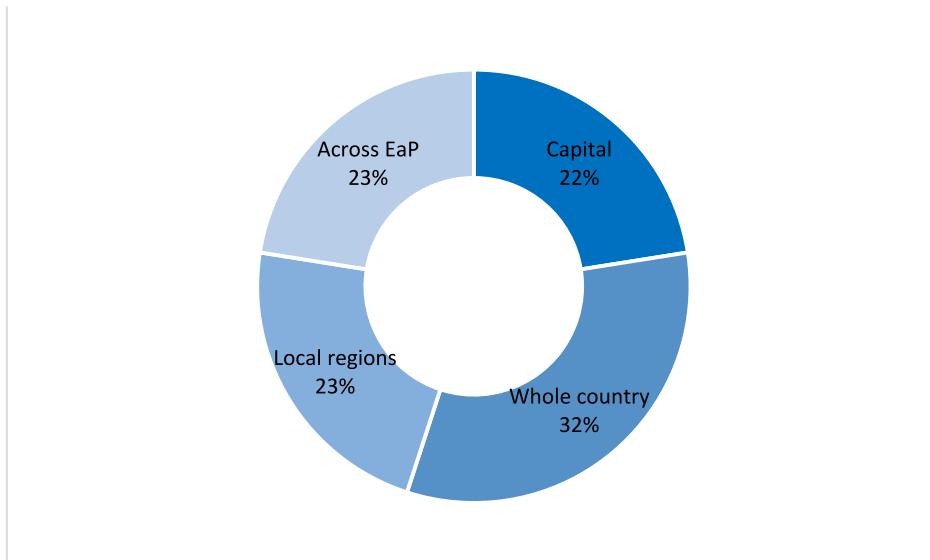
Civil society mapping has demonstrated that the overwhelming majority of Georgian civil society actors working on DCFTA issues implement projects with donors' support and as part of consortiums led by international organizations. Based on the mapping of civil society in Georgia conducted in July 2021 we have identified 31 organizations working on DCFTA issues with a focus on exports of goods. We have studied 44 projects linked to the implementation of DCFTA . The overwhelming majority 84 percent of projects (37 out of 44 projects) were funding by the EU.

Figure 1. Source of funding of projects analysed



In terms of regional coverage, out of 44 projects, 13 covered the whole country, nine covered Tbilisi (out of which, three projects also covered other cities of Georgia), nine covered different regions of Georgia including those densely populated with ethnic minorities. In addition, nine projects had coverage across the Eastern Partnership region. Among these, four projects covered EaP countries (one also covered Russia), two projects covered Georgia and Armenia and two projects covered all three DCFTA countries - Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine.

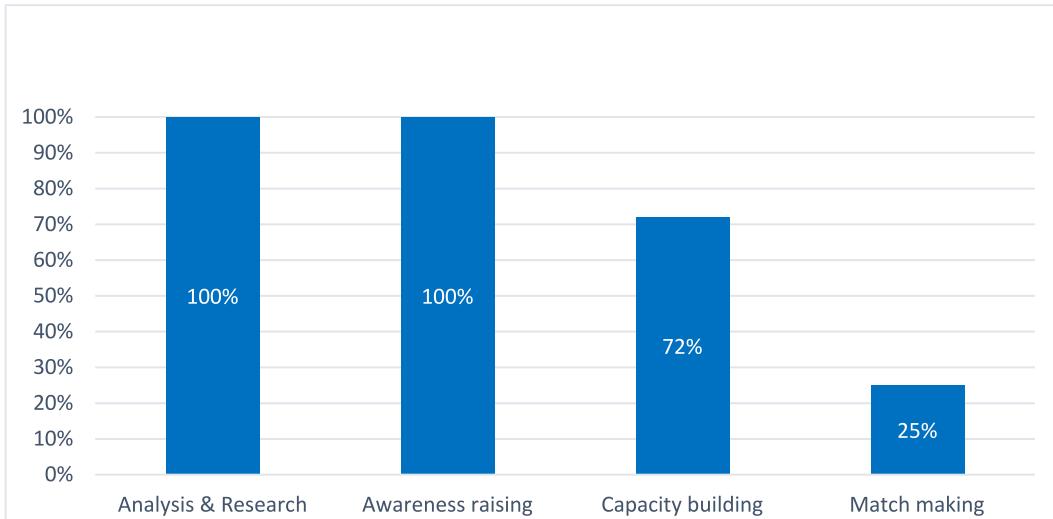
Figure 2. Regional coverage of projects analysed



In terms of content, all of the projects had at least one research component focused on export trends and challenges, and only ten out 44 projects had a capacity-building component for SMEs. It is noteworthy that four projects covered topics related to the sustainable and green trade, including support-

ing sustainable development in multi-ethnic Tsalka municipality, rural development for sustainable growth of Tetritskaro municipality and the ecosystem development for green growth in borderline communities in Georgia and Armenia. In terms of gender aspect, we could only track one project implemented by the EBRD on women empowerment in SMEs. The project is long-term and will run till 2022.

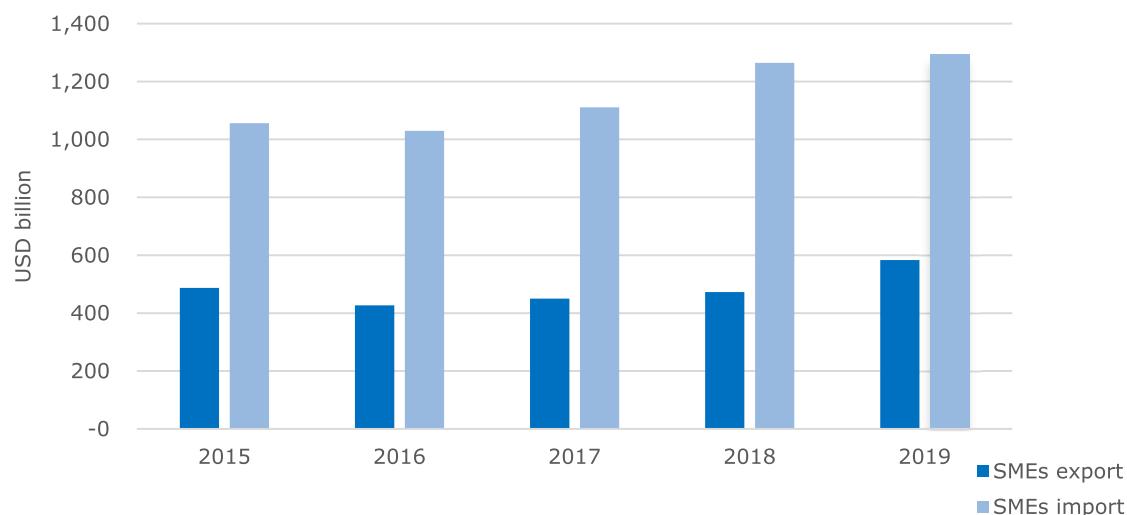
Figure 3. Thematic scope of projects



A brief overview of SME dynamics in Georgia

SMEs are the backbone of the Georgian economy, representing 99.7% of all active Georgian enterprises, supplying 64% of business sector employment and creating 61% of value added. (Akhvlediani, 2021). More than half of the SME workforce (around 67%) is employed in the business sector and in terms of SMEs' market access and uptake of business development services, Georgia scores the highest across the whole EaP region (Akhvlediani, 2021). However, SMEs in Georgia suffer from low productivity and are mostly concentrated in low-value-added sectors, such as the wholesale and retail trade (35%), followed by construction (20%) and manufacturing (20%) (SME Policy Index, 2020). As a result, SMEs engagement in global value chains is limited. In 2019, SMEs could provide only half of the country's international trade flows, the other half coming from the large companies which represented just 0.3% of active enterprises in Georgia (SME Policy Index, 2020). The share of SMEs in trade with the EU is even smaller and contributes only one third of Georgia's total trade with the EU.

Figure 3. Trade of Georgian SMEs with the EU, 2015-2019



Source: *Interim Report on the ex-post evaluation of the implementation of the EU-Georgia DCFTA, Annex E (2021)*.

DCFTA has opened new positions for Georgian exports in both agricultural and non-agricultural sectors. In agricultural exports, the Agreement enabled Georgian SMEs to start new exports of fresh fruits and vegetables, jams and canned vegetables, and dried fruits. The new EU markets for these product groups include Austria, Belgium, Germany, Greece, the Netherlands, Lithuania, Latvia, and Romania. In 2017, Georgia was also authorised to export four new product groups of animal origin to the EU, however, the nominal values of exports in these new product categories remain limited. In non-agricultural sectors, exports have increased in furniture; the growth of exports is particularly impressive in pet furniture, which skyrocketed from a negligible USD 21,000 in 2014 to USD 10.5 million in 2019. The export growth of 1072% in this product category, however, is sourced by one company alone, and which started operations after DCFTA was concluded. Pet furniture is sent mainly to Germany, Poland, Belgium, France and Netherlands (Akhvlediani et.al. 2021).

To reach the EU market, Georgian exports in goods need to satisfy the EU standards on sanitary and phytosanitary measures (SPS) and technical barriers to trade (TBT). The country has made significant progress in this direction and in 2020, around 98% of standards registered in Georgia were already European and international. However, Georgian enterprises, particularly SMEs, struggle with the costly process of adopting the EU standards in practice, which limits the access of most Georgian enterprises to EU markets. Other hampering factors include the lack of access to long-term and low-cost finance, including the loans and funds needed to upscale production; costs associated with transporting the goods, as Georgia shares no land border with the EU; and small-scale and inefficient production processes coupled with the seasonality of most of the agricultural products produced by SMEs. Due to these limitations, even though the implementation of the DCFTA theoretically unlocked new opportunities for Georgian SMEs, the number of exporting companies is quite low amounting roughly to 800, which is only 0.6% of the total number of Georgian enterprises (SME Policy Index for Eastern Partners, 2020).

Good practices and limitations of civil society engagement

Good practices of civil society engagement

During the focus groups and interviews, we asked our interlocutors about DCFTA related projects and civil society actors. We particularly asked SMEs to name projects that were useful for them in terms of capacity- building, DCFTA issues and exports in goods. SME focus group participants mentioned two projects funded by the European Union, both implemented within international consortiums with the participation of two local organisations (Economic Policy Research Center

(EPRC, 2019) and Georgian Institute of Politics (GIP, 2019)) that focused on strengthening civil society's role in DCFTA implementation. Our interlocutors stressed in particular the importance of match-making exercises and networking opportunities with representatives of enterprises operating in the EU Single Market, through study visits in Lithuania and Slovakia (GIP, 2019). Although such exchanges have not yet resulted in Georgian SMEs actually exporting, our focus group participants noted that they have kept in touch with their peers from EU countries and this was particularly helpful for getting contacts with relevant enterprises operating in the EU as well as for receiving business development advice.

Another example of civil society's positive contribution that both representatives of relevant ministries and SMEs have noted are events and discussions where SMEs can meet policymakers and directly discuss their challenges and offer solutions and recommendations on their part. Such meetings have been organised by several civil society organisations. SMEs' representatives have noted that such discussions are particularly useful when field experts who can engage professionally in discussions are involved as they can usually also provide examples from neighbouring countries or European best practices on how to overcome problems.

During the focus groups, civil society representatives emphasized that projects that were focusing on the capacity-building of local civil society through training with field experts were most successful, because they allowed civil society actors to engage in advocacy campaigns effectively, provide advice to SMEs on the ground in different regions of Georgia, and overall to contribute to DCFTA implementation.

Limitations of civil society's engagement

The interviews and focus groups were also helpful in mapping barriers for SME access to the EU market. Among others, these include the EU standards (SPS and TBT), adoption of which is still quite costly for SMEs. This refers to manufactured as well as non-manufactured goods which still need to meet the EU safety standards. As identified during the focus groups, SMEs lack access to laboratories which could provide certificates of product safety that would be recognized at the EU border. As highlighted by SMEs interviewed, sending goods to EU countries is usually a gamble as Georgian certificates on product safety are not recognized in the EU, so there is always a chance that the goods are sent back to Georgia from the EU border after checks in EU laboratories. This creates a high level of uncertainty and makes exports costly for Georgian SMEs. During focus groups SME representatives particularly emphasized the need for quality laboratories on the ground that had EU recognition, as well as equal accessibility for SMEs functioning in the capital and regions. Apart from the lack of access to such much-needed laboratories, SMEs in Georgia also lack access to fridge/freezing facilities which are needed to store the agricultural products before/while exporting to the EU.

Another limitation that SMEs face is the high cost of sending post to EU countries. For instance, when SMEs want to send hand-made textile and apparel, sending even samples to potential customers/business partner via the Georgian postal service to EU countries is costly. The main means of transportation to the EU for Georgian goods remains shipping via the Black Sea, and as Georgia does not share a land border with the EU, sending exports remains costly for SMEs. Another factor limiting Georgian exports to the EU is the lack of large-scale and stable supplies of goods by Georgian SMEs. As they remain small in terms of capacity and productivity, SMEs cannot benefit from economies of scale. This is further coupled with the seasonality of agricultural goods products.

SME representatives have expressed particular worries regarding the lack of information and practical exchanges with those successful SMEs with experience of exporting to the European market, as well as experience received from companies in the EU. Of particular interest are the opportunities provided by a European Commission funded project that allows Georgian SME representatives from various sectors to participate in exchanges with EU companies regarding their standards and experiences in developing brands. Moreover, the stakeholders pointed to issues in the areas of competition and expressed several concerns about the lack of a level playing field for SMEs and larger enterprises.

During the interviews and focus groups, we asked civil society representatives about challenges that limit their role and engagement in different activities relevant to DCFTA implementation. They particularly noted the limited capacity as well as resources, both financial and human (lack of economists and trade professionals). The situation is particularly difficult when it comes to regional civil society since most professionals working on DCFTA matters are based in the capital. Representatives of CSOs have noted that they need to first develop knowledge and skills to support SMEs, (and they also named projects that would provide such training), as well as access to the necessary materials.

When discussing the lack of financial resources, representatives of CSOs noted that donor support on DCFTA matters is channelled to SMEs mainly through government agencies to, some even talked of deinstitutionalisation of civil society actors in the process. Some participants also mentioned that the government and relevant ministries often disregard suggestions and recommendations provided by civil society. In particular, they have noted shortcomings in terms of inclusiveness and have stressed that government organises discussions merely with those civil society representatives that are not critical of state policy.

The study has revealed that CSOs experience significant gaps when it comes to communication with SMEs and the government. The fact that both state officials and SME representatives had difficulty naming organisations or projects about DCFTA they could remember illustrates this, bearing in mind that civil society mapping includes over 40 projects and over 30 civil society organisations working on DCFTA matters. Besides, some SME representatives have noted the lack of legitimacy of civil society representatives and noted that government agencies and information centers serve as the first focal point in seeking information about the DCFTA.

During the stakeholders' consultations we have also observed the gender gap among the representatives of civil society as well as SMEs. There were more male representatives from both civil society and SMEs participating in the consultations. Moreover, during the focus groups, male representatives were more active in sharing their comments and experiences than female representatives.

Lastly, civil society representatives talked of widespread divergencies throughout the sector and noted that civil society lacks a cooperative approach. Notably, the national Civil Society Platform that coordinates the work of civil society on economic matters often faces challenges concerning coordination and cooperation that eventually limit the impact of civil society engagement vis-à-vis the government.

Understanding the impact of civil society efforts

Although both state officials and SME representatives recognize the value of the engagement of civil society in the process of DCFTA implementation, we have observed a lack of awareness of concrete projects and civil society actors among our interlocutors. Our respondents and focus group participants found it difficult to name organisations or concrete projects that could be seen as success stories resulting from civil society efforts in DCFTA implementation. Within the focus groups SME representatives noted that they know of more projects run by the government than by civil society, which points to a clear niche that civil society representatives still need to fill to effectively complement government efforts. During the focus groups, civil society representatives noted that they lack the capacity and professional knowledge to engage effectively. They have particularly emphasized the need to work with field experts and receive professional training that would help them to better engage in advocacy campaigns, provide advice to SMEs and contribute overall to DCFTA implementation.

Interviews conducted with the representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development, and Ministry of Environment and Agriculture of Georgia, revealed that overall state officials assess positively the role of civil society in the process of implementation of DCFTA. However, our respondents have pointed to the limited knowledge and capacity of civil society actors, particularly on specific sectoral knowledge relevant for DCFTA enabling them to

engage in policy deliberations and produce relevant policy recommendations.

During the interviews with the representatives of the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development, we have found that the Ministry is running consultations on DCFTA implementation with a group of experts comprising civil society representatives, the representatives of associations and other stakeholders. Civil society representatives play an important role in the deliberative mechanism of the ministry to discuss different aspects of the DCFTA implementation, especially in the adoption of new regulations and directives. Within that format, civil society and associations represent the positions and interests of SMEs, and in addition they are also responsible for dissemination of information to SMEs, particularly with those affected by the adoption of directives within legislative harmonisation. Our interlocutors stressed that in general civil society is more engaged in this process than the associations. They have further pointed out that there is a lack of capacity across all stakeholders engaged in discussions in terms of lobbying and representing the interests of SMEs, particularly when it comes to sector specific discussions.

Conclusions and recommendations

SMEs are the backbone of the Georgian economy, representing 99.7% of all active Georgian enterprises, sourcing 64% of business sector employment and creating 61% of value added. More than half of the SME workforce is employed in the business sector and in terms of SMEs' market access and uptake of business development services. However, SMEs in Georgia suffer from low productivity and are mostly concentrated in low-value-added sectors. As a result, SMEs engagement in global value chains and their exports to the EU remain limited.

The creation of DCFTA has opened new positions for Georgian exports in both agricultural and non-agricultural sectors. In 2017, Georgia also became authorized to export four new product groups of animal origin to the EU. However, the nominal values of exports in these new product categories is still very small and less than 1% of all active enterprises manage to send their exports to the EU. The major limitations for SMEs' access to the EU market are the costly processes of adopting the EU standards in practice, such as SPS and TBT. As identified during the focus groups, SMEs lack access to testing laboratories on the ground in the capital as well as at the regional level which could provide the certificates of product safety that would be recognized at the EU border. Apart from a lack of access to the necessary laboratories, SMEs in Georgia also lack access to the fridge/freezing facilities which are needed to store the agricultural products before/while exporting to the EU. Other hampering factors include the lack of access to long-term and low-cost finance, including loans and funds needed to upscale the production, costs associated with transporting the goods to the EU (as Georgia shares no land border with any of the EU member states) and the lack of economies of scale and stable supplies of goods produced by Georgian SMEs.

SME representatives have expressed particular worries regarding lack of information and practical exchanges with successful SMEs that already have experience of exporting to the European market, as well as experience received from dealing with companies in the EU. Of particular interest are the opportunities provided by a European Commission funded project that allows Georgian SME representatives from various sectors to participate in exchanges with EU companies regarding their standards and experiences in developing brands.

Georgian civil society has limited capacity and resources for effectively advocating SME interests vis-à-vis the Government given the lack of DCFTA-related knowledge to engage in meaningful deliberations. Overall, the projects that focus on the capacity-building of local civil society through training with field experts have proved to be successful as they allowed civic actors to engage in campaigns, provide advice to SMEs, and contribute to DCFTA implementation. However, there are gaps in communication and coordination between the Georgian civil society and SMEs as well as government representatives. Although there are diverse projects implemented by civil society that cover different aspects of DCFTA, they remain largely unknown to both SME and government representatives.

Recommendations

For civil society:

- Increase engagement with SMEs. Improve the coverage of DCFTA-related issues which are useful for SMEs.
- Develop tailored trainings for SMEs by considering the major setbacks faced by SMEs when starting or upscaling their exports to the EU.
- Engage in advocacy for SMEs when they face limitation in their trade activities.
- Engage in mainstreaming the interests of SMEs by participating more actively in public consultations run by the Georgian government.
- Develop support networking among SMEs by helping them to find business partners within Georgia, as well as in the EaP region and across the EU member states.
- Conduct research of successful cases of Georgian companies to European Single Market and share the key findings with SMEs.

For the Government of Georgia:

- Help SMEs to adopt EU standards. This particularly refers to food safety, where meeting the EU SPS measures is too costly for Georgian SMEs. Establishing a laboratory in Georgia which could provide a certificate on food safety recognised in the EU could significantly boost SMEs' export potential.
- Improve SMEs' access to long-term, low-cost finance, create a national credit guarantee fund for SMEs, lower or subsidize interest rates on loans and provide alternative sources of financing other than loans.
- To help improve SMEs' productivity, more investments are needed in upscaling their production capacities. This could also involve the government's support to create clusters or cooperatives.
- Help SMEs set up the fridge/freezing facilities which are needed to store agricultural products before/while exporting to the EU.
- Ensure a level playing field by pursuing the needed competition policy in line with the provisions and the commitments of DCFTA.
- In consultations with the EU and Black Sea neighbour EU member states, develop transport corridors which could reduce the costs of sending Georgian exports to the EU market. This would also help to better exploit the Black Sea potential to intensify trade with the EU.

For the EU:

- Consider channelling core funds to civil society in order to facilitate sector relevant capacity building and expertise of civil society.
- Enhance its role in facilitation of trilateral communication between the government, civil society and SMEs.
- Consider the SME needs when channelling funds to civil society in particular concerning the establishment of laboratories issuing food safety certification recognised in the EU countries, as well as the connectivity and the development of transport corridors among the EaP trio countries and the EU.
- Continue more tailored support programs via ENPARD and EU4Business with specific focus on local civil society development to help SMEs in upscaling their production capacities and implement EU standards in practice.

The role of civil society in DCFTA implementation in the Republic of Moldova

Introduction

The EU-Moldova Association Agreement (AA) is the country's main regulatory framework promoting political association and deeper economic integration and alignment of governmental regulations between the EU and the Republic of Moldova. For the past six years, civil society, media and other stakeholders have been contributing to raising awareness and monitoring the implementation of the AA/DCFTA. These activities have been implemented through civil society platforms as well as Moldovan think-tanks and other policy-oriented elements of civil society which have provided their expertise and guidance.

The mechanism to incorporate civil society participation in supporting and monitoring various aspects of the implementation of the free trade agreements has become an integral and indispensable part of all agreements negotiated by the European Union. Since then, researchers have analysed these mechanisms to better understand whether the involvement of civil society enhances authentic participation in decision-making and whether civil society manages to support local SMEs effectively in reaping the full benefits of these free trade agreements.

This study aims to provide an informed analysis of civil society's impact in the implementation of the Association Agreement with a specific focus on DCFTA and SMEs. The study is divided in several chapters which will cover the following aspects: First, civil society coverage of aspects related to DCFTA (mapping of civil society in the Republic of Moldova and brief analysis of the projects conducted and implemented by civil society. Second, section offers the overview of the SMEs dynamics (sectoral distribution of SMEs; SMEs exports and imports; gender aspects in SMEs performance and development). Finally, last section discusses role of civil society in informing SMEs about DCFTA (impact assessment of civil society activities; best practices in civil society-SME engagement; limitations of civil society engagement) and initiatives policy recommendations.

Results of civil society mapping in Moldova

The National Registry of non-government organizations contains around 13,000 registered associations, but more than 10,000 of these are not active and do not provide any financial or activity reports. Out of the 3,000 active non-governmental actors, 48% represent religious organizations, sports associations and other activity related associations (e.g. hunting associations, fisheries associations). Thus, at the moment, around 1,500 civil society organizations are active and able to engage in policy making and monitoring activities relevant to the framework of this specific project. For the purpose of this study, civil society was defined as non-governmental organizations at both local and national levels (e.g. think-tanks, research organizations and non-profit grass roots organizations), business associations, chambers of commerce and trade unions. Other players, such as political parties, sports associations and federations, religious associations and news associations, despite having the status of non-governmental organizations, have been excluded from the scope of the analysis.

Figure 10. Fields of activities of civil society

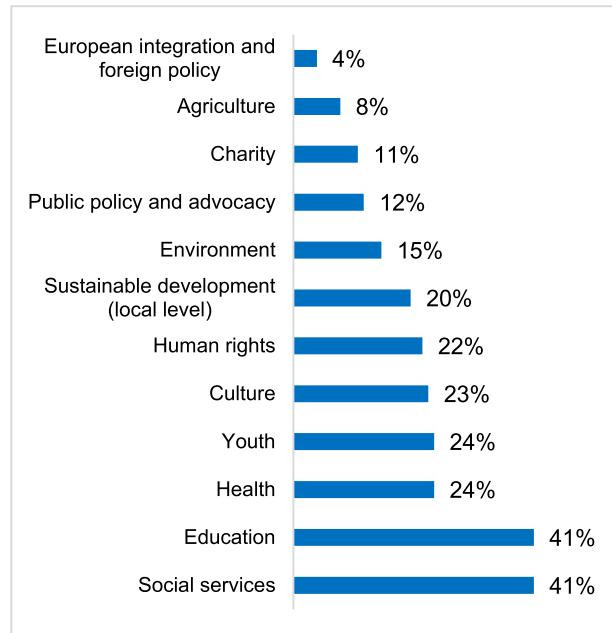
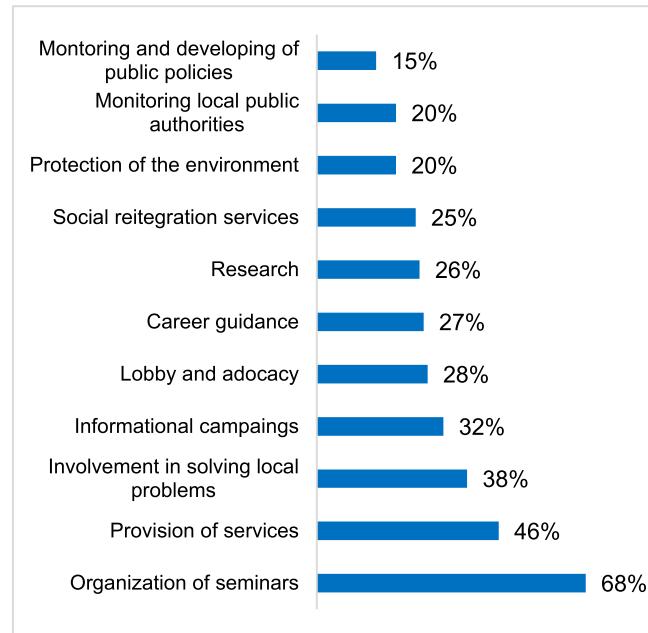


Figure 11. Type of activities developed by civil society



The projects implemented by civil society organizations can be classified in the following five distinct categories:

- I. **Legitimization and promotion of the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA) with the EU** - over the last few years, local think tanks have been engaged in raising awareness and the level of information regarding DCFTA among both the business community and citizens (national and local level). Civil society serves as an important partner for the Government in the dissemination of information and in increasing the understanding of practical benefits of DCFTA implementation.
- II. **Provision of a platform for dialogue between the business community and the Government** - the business associations represent a bridge in communication between Government authorities and representatives of the business community. These interactions allow for identification of the bottlenecks and obstacles in DCFTA implementation in various areas: political, legal, economic or social. The goal of the projects implemented under this category is to solve key issues that limit the investment climate and the business environment.
- III. **Increase of capacities** - a large share of projects aims to improve the capacities of national authorities and representatives of the business community. The support for Government covers the dimensions of institution building, public policy development and evaluation and technical assistance. The coaching for the business sector includes: improvement of entrepreneurial capacities, marketing capacities, access to EU markets and consulting services for trade facilitation. Local civil society organisations also work with enterprises from Transnistria in order to facilitate cross-border cooperation and access to EU markets.
- IV. **Monitoring of the implementation of DCFTA** - in order to provide an independent benchmark and provide a check on Governmental reports, civil society has been monitoring the implementation of the various chapters of DCFTA. Publication of shadow reports has been a constant activity since the beginning of DCFTA. Governments have found these reports useful especially at the phase of identification of new priorities and for inclusions in the next action plans.
- V. **Public policy development and support in implementation** - civil society has been active in offering support to the Government in the development of new public policies or strategic planning documents relevant to the implementation of DCFTA. The co-creation

component of the strategic documents has increased in the years of DCFTA implementation, as civil servants learned more about the value of engaging with citizens and relevant stakeholders.

Brief overview of SME dynamics in Moldova

In the period 2014 - 2020, the number of SMEs in the Republic of Moldova grew slowly but steadily, reaching a 98.6% share of total enterprises. The most noticeable change is the decrease of small enterprises and the increase of micro enterprises. Small, but positive changes can be observed in terms of persons employed and sales turnover, which increased over the same period by 5.4% and 7.7% respectively (figure 3). Despite representing such a large share of total enterprises and national employment, the SME sector contribution to GDP is rather low. Only 31% of the Republic of Moldova's GDP is generated by SMEs and SMEs account for only 33.4% of total annual sales. This data confirms the low productivity of the SME sector compared to that of larger enterprises.

Figure 12. Dynamics of SME sector in the Republic of Moldova, 2014-2020

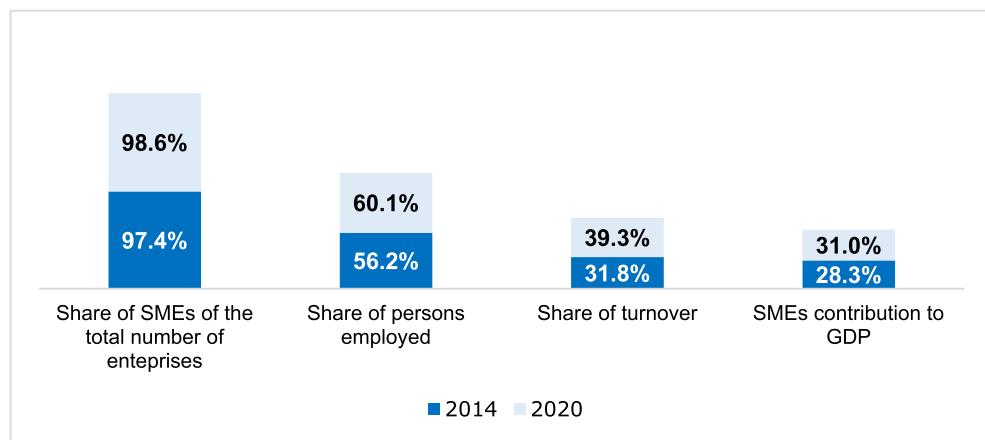
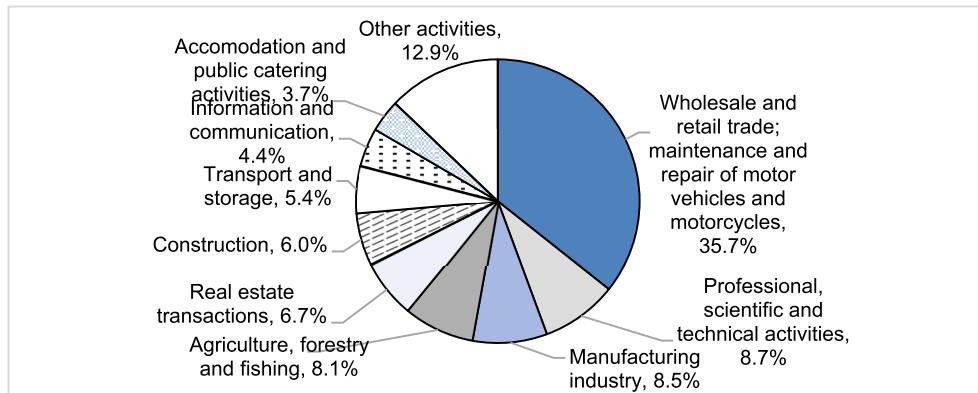


Table 2. Definition of SMEs according to the Moldovan legislation

Definition of SMEs by size				
	Number of employees	Annual revenues from sales in MDL (EUR)	OR	Annual total assets in MDL (EUR)
Micro	<10	<9 million (450,000)	OR	<9 million (150,000)
Small	<50	<25 million (1,250,000)		<25 million (1,250,000)
Medium	<250	<50 million (2,500,000)		<50 million (2,500,000)

The largest share of SMEs operate in the wholesale and retail trades. Over the past few years we have witnessed a constant decline of SMEs that operate in this specific field, which could indicate a larger trend of specialization by SMEs in areas with more added value. Construction, transport, information, and communication have registered increases in number of the SMEs that operate in these specific fields.

Figure 13. Sectoral distribution of SMEs in the Republic of Moldova, 2020



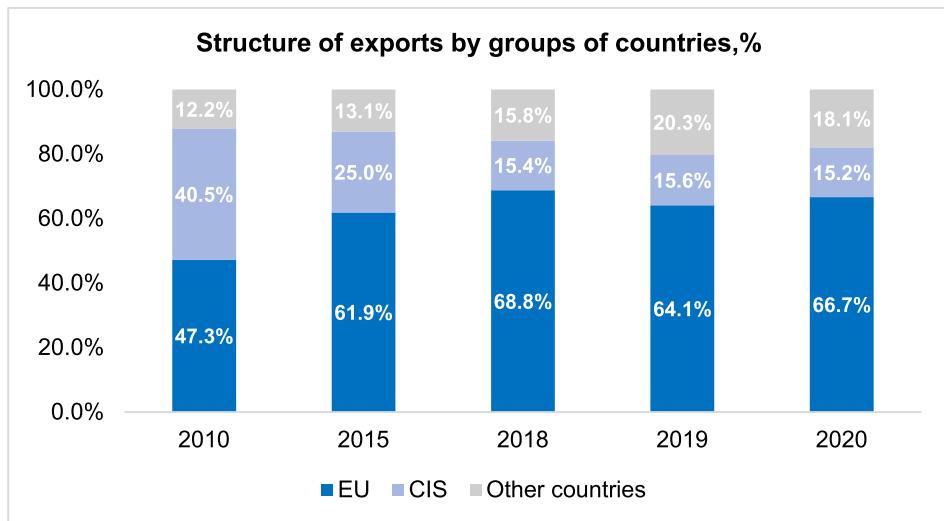
The EU has strengthened its position as the main market for Moldovan exporters. **In terms of Moldovan exports** (table 2): the exports to the EU have increased from 46.8% to 66.7% (in 2018, Moldovan exports reached the highest share at 68.8%, figure 6), while exports to the CIS decreased over the same period from 38% to 15.2%. The value of goods and services exported by local entrepreneurs in the EU has increased by more than 30%.

In terms of imports: (table 3): the imports from EU have not registered noticeable changes since the start of DCFTA implementation. But during this period, Moldova has reduced its imports from CIS countries and increased its imports from other countries.

Table 3. Republic of Moldova's trade structure by groups of country (\$ million), 2013 and 2020

	2013				2020			
	Exports		Imports		Exports		Imports	
	Value (\$)	Share (%)	Value (\$)	Share (%)	Value (\$)	Share (%)	Value (\$)	Share (%)
EU	1,136.3	46.8	2,471.8	45	1,657.5	66.7	2,469.6	45.6
CIS	922.6	38	1,675.3	30.5	377.7	15.2	1,316	24.3
Other countries	369.1	15.2	1,345.7	24.5	449.8	18.1	1,630.1	30.1
Total	2,428	100	5,492.8	100	2,485	100	5,415.7	100

[Figure 14. Structure of exports by groups of countries, %](#)



Source: National Bureau of Statistics.

In the period 2016 to 2019, the share of women-owned SMEs has increased from 27% to 32.5%. There is no data regarding the share of women-owned SMEs that have import and export operations with other countries. Civil society has designed several programs which aim to increase the economic empowerment of women and to reduce inequalities by encouraging a greater participation of women and other vulnerable groups in economic activities, namely trade with the EU. A positive consequence of civil society engaging with women and other vulnerable groups is the development by the national authorities of specific programs aimed to help women start a business. The Organization for the Development of Small and Medium Enterprises Sector (ODIMM) launched in 2016 a *Women in Business Program*. Since the start of the program, around 620 investment projects have received more than MDL 96 million in total (approx. EUR 4.8 million) (ODIMM, 2021).

Good practices and limitations of civil society engagement

Civil society's activities, related to the capacity building of SMEs and exploring the DCFTA's potential for them, has increased since 2014. SME representatives have been both **direct** and **indirect** beneficiaries of the projects launched and conducted by civil society, depending on the profile of the civil society and their area of expertise.

Within the projects implemented by business associations SMEs were usually the direct beneficiaries. The activities conducted by the business associations included trainings and seminars on DCFTA provisions, requirements and technicalities, but also individual consultations on the market opportunities provided by DCFTA (Chamber of Commerce and Industry interview, 2021). The business associations have also been facilitating the interaction between the SMEs sector and government through providing policy recommendations to the state authorities and holding regular meetings with the government (i.e. Ministry of Economy, Organization for the Development of Small and Medium Enterprises) on the most pressing issues on the agenda, most recently related to the COVID-19 restrictions for the business sector. From the 23 projects analyzed for the purpose of this chapter, 11 of them focused on capacity-building and empowerment of the SME sector (Annex 1).

NGO and think-tank interaction with the SMEs are of a different character. Within this process SMEs are consulted, interviewed and invited to participate in research and training activities aimed at enabling a better overview of their capacities and needs. At the same time think-tanks are developing studies and reports on DCFTA implementation to provide a clear picture of the current SMEs' situation (Expert Grup interview, 2021). The reports, policy papers and briefs developed by them have a broader target group (i.e. public authorities, political groups international donors and civil so-

ciety), and SMEs are not usually the key beneficiaries. The communication and visibility component of NGO projects tends to be explanatory and informative, focusing on a wider public. Respectively, 12 projects from the 23 examined were developed and implemented by think-tanks and NGOs (Annex 1).

Civil society and SME representatives interviewed for the purpose of this research have highlighted the positive impact of the communication and dialogue platforms developed within the framework of the business associations or led by the governmental authorities. As such, the representation of the business associations, patrons and think-tanks/NGOs across different consultative councils and working groups advising that the government should offer the opportunity for a more sustainable interaction at policy level. For example, the Economic Council to the Prime Minister includes, among the others, 56 business associations and three leading Moldovan think tanks in the field of justice, economy, infrastructure and regional development (Economic Council to the Prime Minister, 2021). Both the business associations and the other NGOs/think-tanks can use these platforms for sharing their first-hand experience and elaborate policy recommendations for facilitating the activity of SMEs.

Within the business associations, management teams are organizing regular consultations, field visits and discussions with SMEs on export opportunities provided by DCFTA. Moreover, their interaction includes individual meetings to analyse the challenges and needs of the SMEs or annual questionnaires shared across the network of the business associations. One particular advantage lies in the geographical proximity of the business associations' branches to the placement of the SMEs' activity (Chamber of Commerce and Industry interview, 2021). For example, the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the biggest business association working with SMEs, has 10 local branches across the country (Chamber of Commerce and Industry, 2021), which provide services and enable a structural dialogue with the SMEs. Another positive example is the recent opening of six business hubs at a regional level by the European Business Association (EBA), which will provide assistance and guidance for start-ups and SMEs (European Business Association Moldova, 2021). However, most of the business associations are located in Chisinau and do not have a strong presence in the regions of the country.

Collaboration between civil society and small and medium enterprises has been characterized by ad hoc partnerships dependent on the availability of specific projects. As most of the activities implemented by civil society are project based, there is very limited capacity to design and implement a comprehensive approach of engagement with SMEs. As a result, the position of the business community and civil society can be misaligned and additional effort is needed to bridge the differences between the needs of the SMEs and the goals and objective of the donors which are financing the projects.

Business associations tend to work with larger enterprises. This reduces the capacity of SMEs to engage more directly in the decision-making process. Despite the fact that the SMEs' interests are being represented by ODIMM, the modest results in this area underline the difficulties in dialogue between SMEs and the authorities. For example, ODIMM does not collect information regarding the number of SMEs that have export operations. Without reliable data it is very difficult to design interventions that would increase the productivity of SMEs. Also, the Program for Growth and Internalization of SMEs was launched only in 2020. The fact that the program aimed to increase SMEs' capacities to export to EU was launched only after 6 years of DCFTA implementation shows the limited access of SMEs to policy making.

Conclusions and recommendations

The role of civil society in informing SMEs about DCFTA components and opportunities is limited. Only a few business associations, which include a wide number of SMEs as part of their structure, are providing these services and opportunities for SMEs. The ability of civil society to perform these activities is linked to their financing resources and the grants or aid received from external donors. Nowadays, most of this financial support is directed towards governmental institutions responsible for developing capacity-building programs and projects for the SMEs, including on DCFTA. As such, civil society organizations have a more peripheral role due to their limited resources and lack of long-term institutional funding from external sources.

The types of projects implemented by civil society in this area could be separated into two categories. On the one hand, the business associations are „grassroots” entities, working directly with SMEs and offering them support based on needs assessment. However, only a few of them are working specifically with the SME sector. On the other hand, the think-tank and NGOs developed projects aimed at informing the SMEs, the national authorities and other actors about the current state of DCFTA implementation and the challenges and opportunities in extending the exports to the EU market. Furthermore, think-tanks have an active policy dialogue with the governmental authorities and EU institutions through using different formats of interaction (i.e. EU – Moldova Civil Society Platform meetings), advocating an accelerated implementation of DCFTA provisions, but also pointing to the key institutional and policy challenges in this regard.

An important barrier to informing SMEs about DCFTA is the lack of available data. Until now there has been no precise statistics regarding the share of SMEs in overall Moldovan exports to the EU market. Without this information, it is hardly possible for the government, civil society and international donors to properly assess the dynamics of SMEs exports to the EU market and, therefore, the evolution of their level of awareness about DCFTA. These two indicators are directly linked, so one cannot expect to accurately evaluate the role of governmental and non-governmental actors in informing SMEs about DCFTA without analyzing in depth the dynamics of SMEs exports to the EU market, including their sectors of activity, geographical location and profile.

To the international donors:

- Increase the number of grant programs aiming at supporting business associations working in the SMEs sector. Ensure sustainable institutional funding which would allow the development of a medium and long-term vision for SMEs empowerment and capacity-building in the context of DCFTA.
- Increase the support for the national/local NGOs and think-tanks for a wider interaction with the SMEs sector, especially at the regional level. Consortiums between business associations, think tanks and local NGOs could genuinely help the SME sector to become better informed and aware about DCFTA.

To the national authorities:

- Develop a database for assessing the structure of SMEs exports to the EU market. Communicate periodically about the dynamics of SMEs' exports to the EU market and facilitate the development of analytical reports and papers dedicated to this specific topic;
- Enable the establishment of a consultative council for the Ministry of Economy, dedicated to SMEs' activity within DCFTA. The consultative council could benefit from the involvement and active participation of governmental authorities, business associations, think-tanks and NGOs working in this sector.

To the civil society:

- Ensure broader and regular communication with the SMEs' sector via the existing platforms at the levels of civil society and government. Increase the number of CSOs present in the existing bodies (i.e. Economic Council to the Prime-Minister) and the number of business

associations within the National Platform of the EaP Civil Society Forum.

- Create a platform for interaction between the NGOs, think-tanks and business associations at a national level. A number of working groups could be developed within this platform, to discussing and addressing sectorial issues. Regular meetings between the business associations, NGOs and think-tanks would provide space for mutual understanding of challenges affecting the SMEs and to develop and strengthen the collaboration between these three actors.

The role of the civil society in DCFTA implementation in Ukraine

Introduction

Ukraine has a vibrant civil society. Since independence, its role has gradually grown stronger and following the Revolution of Dignity its impact on policymaking has increased significantly (Paluvoda, 2016). The success of civil society in Ukraine is also evidenced by the civil Society Organizations Sustainability Index (CSOSI) 2019, developed with the support of The International Center for Not-for-Profit Law and funded by USAID. In its sub-region of Eurasia, which includes Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Russia and Ukraine, Ukraine has the highest indicator in the sustainability of civil society. Compared to 2018, the civil society environment has further improved in terms of the legal environment, organisational capacity, and financial stability (Sustainability Index, 2019). Another indicator confirming the importance of civil society activity in Ukraine is that as of 2020 both actual and potential civic activity increased compared to 2011, particularly the share of people willing to sign petitions or participate in demonstrations (Ukrainian Center for European Policy, 2020). According to a poll conducted by the Razumkov Center in July-August 2021, around 50% of the respondents expressed some degree of trust towards Ukrainian civil society (Razumkov Center, 2021). The trust towards civil society is higher than towards many state institutions. This underlines the importance of civil society in Ukraine.

This study aims to identify and assess civil society' roles in informing local SMEs regarding the opportunities of DCFTA, particularly the good practices and limitations of civil society engagement in the DCFTA implementation in Ukraine. It is one of a trilogy of studies conducted in parallel with ones in Georgia and Moldova aiming for a comparative assessment across the three target states. The research methodology is based on the results of interviews, focus groups, and data analysis. In Ukraine, the research team conducted nine interviews, including six interviews with representatives of CSOs regional ones, one interview with government officials, and two interviews with business representatives. There were also two focus groups with civil society and SME representatives. Quantitative information from the State Statistics Service of Ukraine and literature supplemented the qualitative data collected through interviews and focus groups discussions.

Our team assembled a database of civil society projects operational in 2014-2020 that inform businesses, including SMEs, about the opportunities that arise within the framework of the DCFTA.

The rest of the report is organised as follows: the first chapter describes civil society activities in Ukraine, focusing on the results of projects aiming to give information on DCFTA opportunities. The second chapter briefly considers the development of SMEs in Ukraine. The third chapter, based primarily on the results of interviews and focus groups, focuses on the advantages and limitations of civil society in informing SMEs. Finally, the conclusions summarise the results of the study. The research also provided recommendations to civil society, the Government, and the EU to improve these institutions' performance in helping SMEs export to the EU.

Results of civil society mapping in Ukraine

Methodology

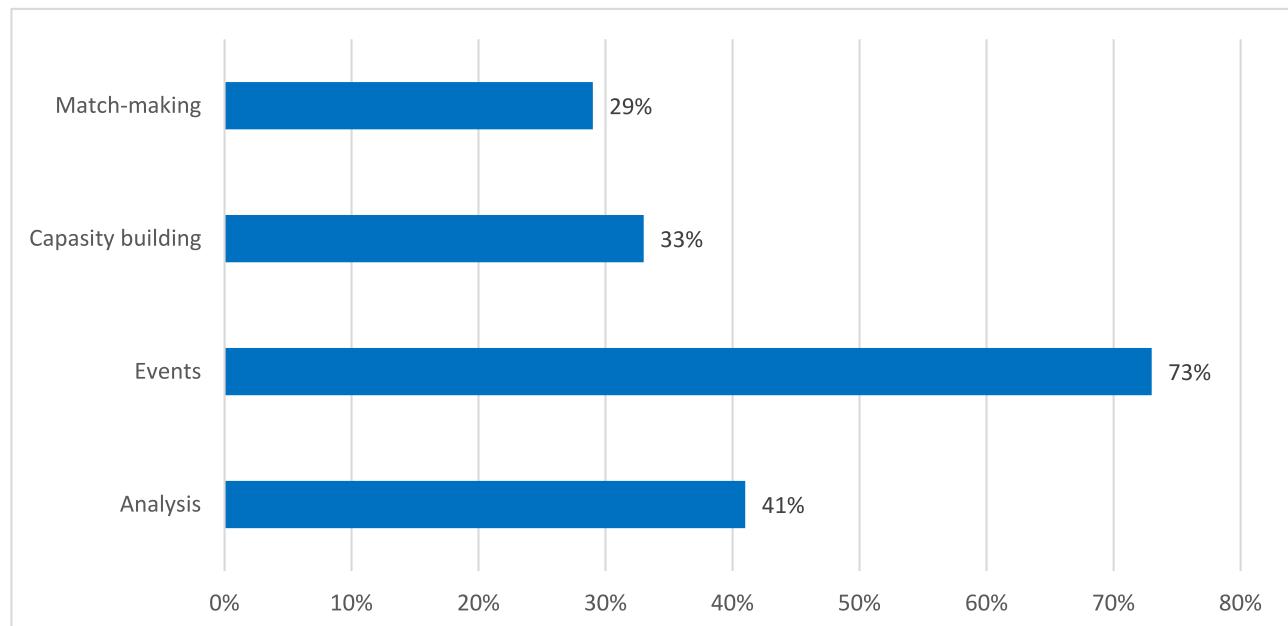
To assemble the database of civil society involved in informing SMEs about DCFTA-related opportunities and the relevant projects, we analysed data from civil society websites. We worked with the websites of the Ukrainian National Platform of Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum members and websites of international donors and embassies. We also complemented this targeted search with a broad Google search.

We identified 35 CSOs involved in activities promoting the export of Ukrainian goods to the EU in line with AA/DCFTA. Out of them there are 25 NGOs, four business associations, two employer's organisations, one trade union, one development agency, one information platform, and one fund. The development agency is GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit) which implements projects with a mandate from the German Government. The database also includes one fund, namely Western NIS Enterprise Fund (WNISEF), part of American technical support of Ukraine. Of 35 identified CSOs, 21 (60%) are in Kyiv and 14 (40%) in other cities of Ukraine. The total number of projects which these CSOs have realised is 66. The civil society mapping is based on open-source analysis, however, the database is not comprehensive - the screening approach captures the most notable projects and most active civil society in the field of DCFTA.

Information on implemented and ongoing projects

Out of the 66 projects identified by our research team, there are 43 (65.2%) pan-Ukraine projects without specific regional coverage, and 23 (34.8%) are regional projects. That includes four in Kharkiv, four in Dnipro, three in Odesa, and two in Lviv regions. There are also seven projects implemented in Kyiv and paralleled in other regions. As in the case with activity types of civil society, most projects include events as their integral component. The second most typical project activity is analysis, followed by capacity development and matchmaking (Figure 1).

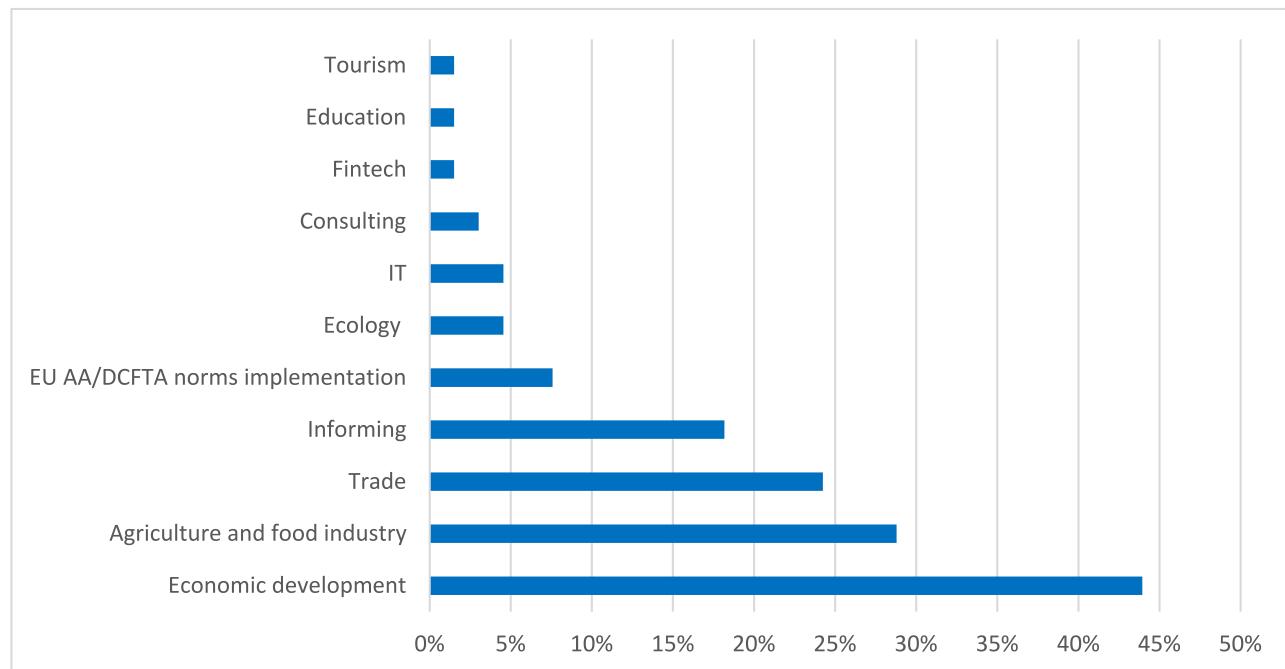
Figure 1. Percentage of projects` activity types



Source: based on the Projects database

Most projects cover “economic development” generally, while the most popular sectoral topics are agriculture and food. The latter could be justified and explained by the relative complexity of DCFTA provisions related to the agriculture and food industries and the large number of SMEs in Ukraine working in these sectors. On the other hand, we identified a much smaller number of projects dedicated to IT, tourism, and education (Figure 2).

Figure 2. Spheres of activity of projects



Source: based on the project's database

As for the gender dimension, many projects mention the gender dimension in their projects' aims. We also found one project (realized by USAID) that finances women's entrepreneurship, but this project is not directly dedicated to export promotion to the EU. There are some projects directly dedicated to the issues of environment and ecology. For example, three projects consider environmental problems, such as implementing the ecological component of AA, eco-innovation promotion, and promoting eco-friendly services. However, ecologically oriented projects consisted of just 5% of all projects found, and there are two organisations focused on the implementations of ecological projects in Ukraine.

Review of civil society involved in informing SMEs about export opportunities under DCFTA

The study suggests that business associations and funds are the most active, while NGOs were the least involved in export promotion (Table 1). The most likely explanation is the varying specialisations of different CSOs with employers' groups and businesses considering export promotion as their organisational missions.

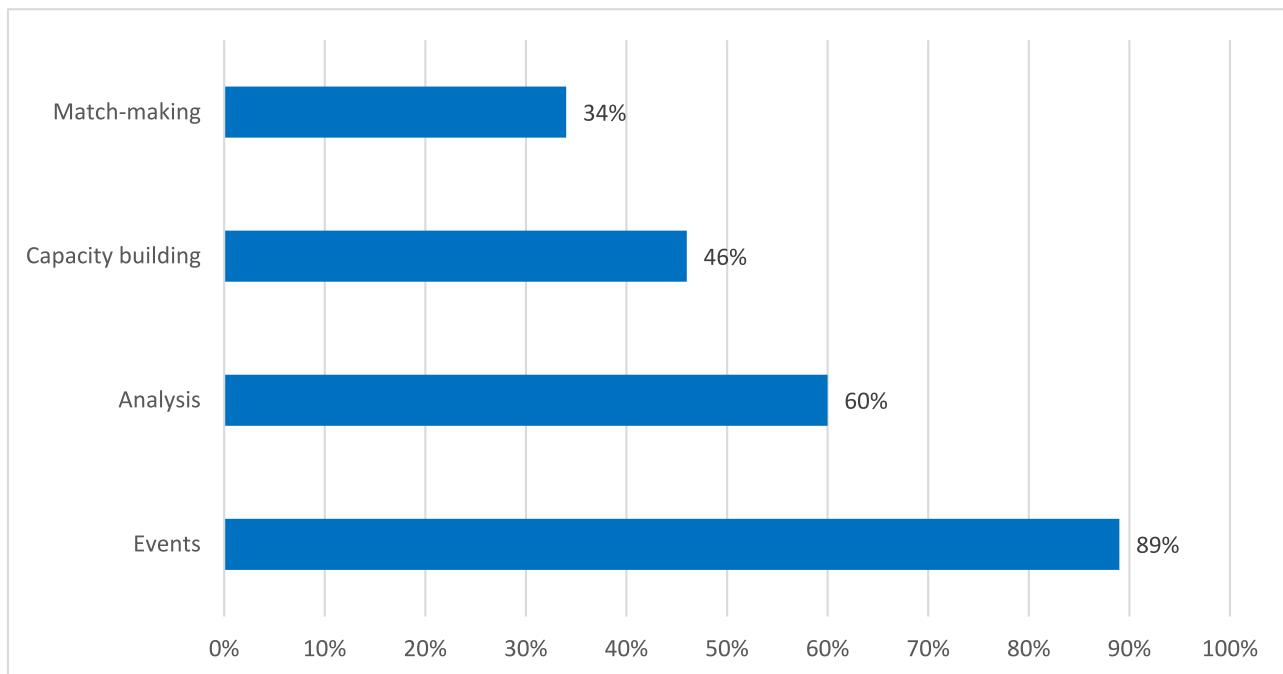
Table 1. The total and average number of projects per civil society type

Type of civil society organisation	Total number of export promotion projects	The average number of export promotion projects per organisation
NGO	35	1.4
Business association	17	4.25
Employer's group	5	2.5
Trade union	2	2
Development agency	3	3
Fund	4	4
Total	66	1.89

Source: based on the Projects database and List of Ukrainian Civil society actively implementing DCFTA in Ukraine

Most CSOs do not specialise strictly in one type of activity and are involved in multiple types of activities. Still, events – that is, dissemination of information - are typical for all CSOs (Figure 3).

Figure 3. Percentage of activity types of CSOs



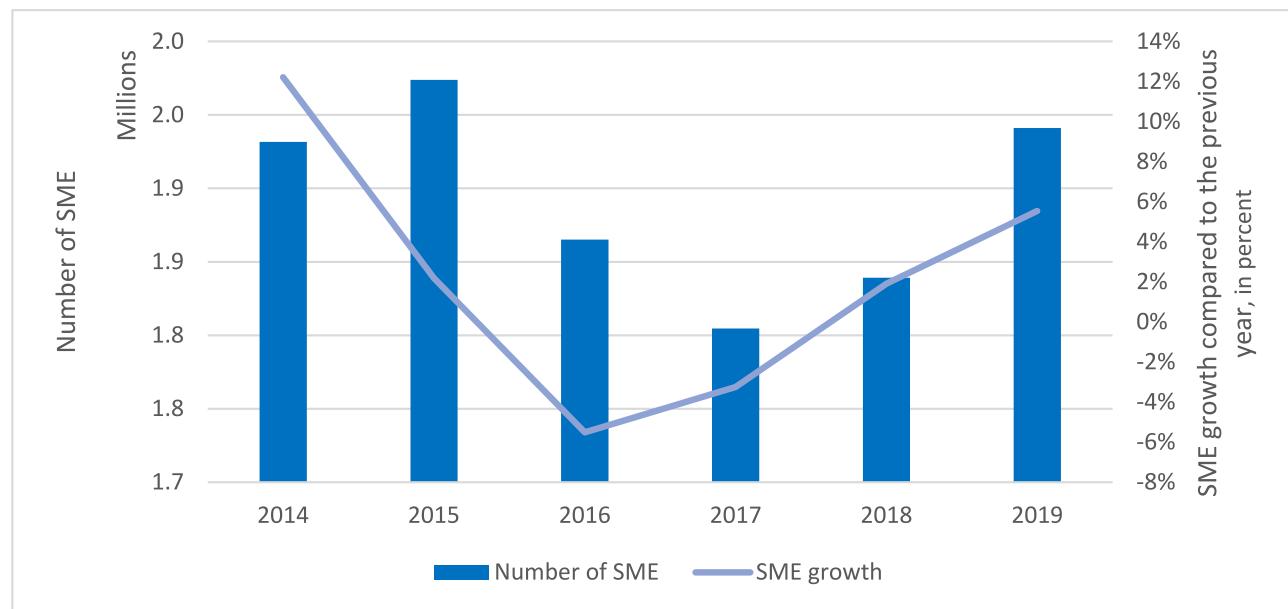
Source: based on the Projects database and List of Ukrainian CSOs actively implementing DCFTA in Ukraine

A brief overview of SME dynamics in Ukraine

Currently, SMEs development is among the economic policy priorities of the country; in 2017 the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, for the first time, approved a SME Development Strategy for the period up to 2020 (Governmental Portal, 2018). Furthermore, the National Economic Strategy for the period up to 2030 also actively mentions SME development, including developing a business support ecosystem, simplifying the regulatory environment, and promoting access to new markets (Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, 2021). In addition, in 2018, the SME Development Office under the Ministry of Economy was established. Its primary purpose is to inform SMEs about opportunities, create a network of SME support centres and train SMEs (OECD, 2020).

According to the Commercial Code of Ukraine, SMEs include micro, small and medium enterprises. A micro-enterprise consists of an enterprise with no more than ten employees and an annual income of no more than 2 million euros. A small enterprise has no more than 50 employees and a yearly income of no more than 10 million euros. As for medium-sized enterprises, they include all enterprises that do not fall into the small or large categories. It should also be noted that these criteria meet those defined by the EU. A separate component of SMEs in Ukraine is individual entrepreneurs (or private persons – entrepreneurs using the simplified taxation system (Commercial Code, 2021). In 2019, the SME sector in Ukraine covered 99.9% of all enterprises, of which 96% were micro-enterprises and 91.3% of these micro-enterprises accounted for individual enterprises (State Statistics Service of Ukraine, 2020). On average, in the period from 2014 to 2019, the share of SMEs in the economy of Ukraine increased by 2.2% (Figure 4).

Figure 4. Number of SMEs in Ukraine 2014-2019

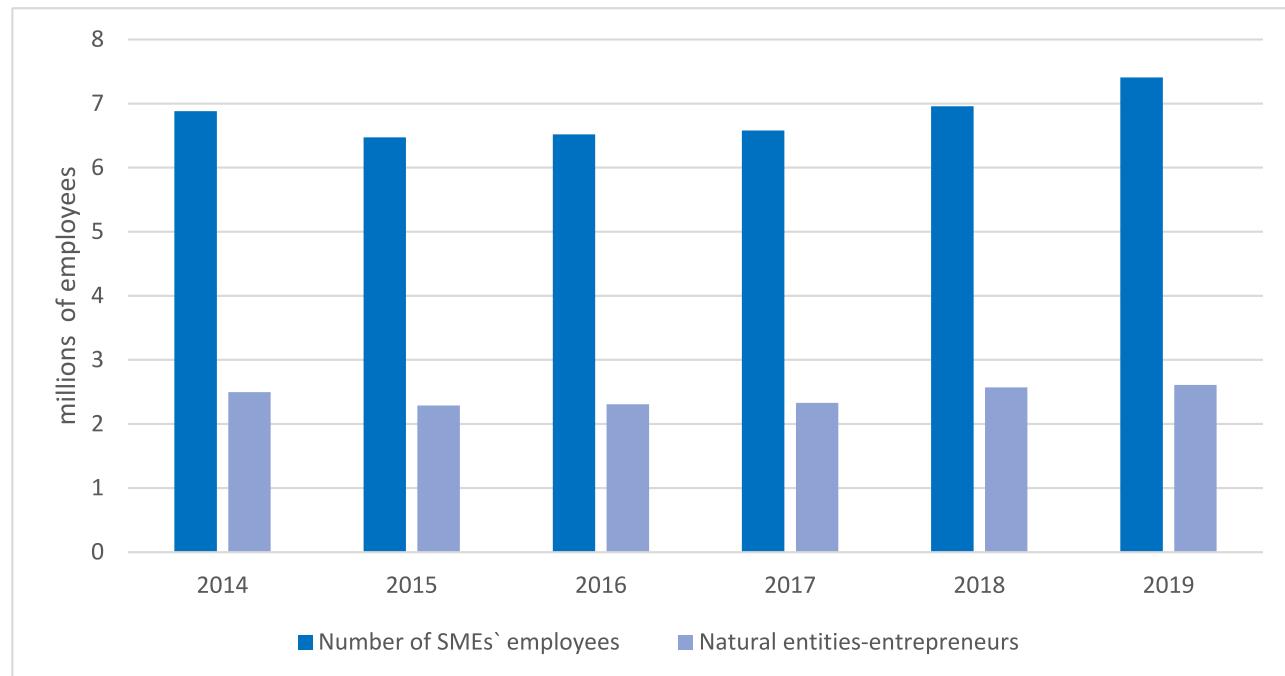


Source: Ukrstat

More than a quarter of SMEs in Ukraine are registered in Kyiv. Among other regions, Dnipro, Kharkiv, Kyiv, Lviv, and Odesa were also leaders in the number of registered SMEs (State Statistics Service of Ukraine, 2019). In 2019, the SME sector employed 7.4 million people, 82.2% of all employees in the business sector in Ukraine. The largest share of employees worked in the micro and small business sector, 47.9% of all employees, the rest in medium-sized enterprises. In general, from 2014 to 2019, the share of employees in SMEs increased by 0.3%. (Figure 5). The primary sectors where SMEs operate were trade (26%), agriculture (15%), and industry (11%).

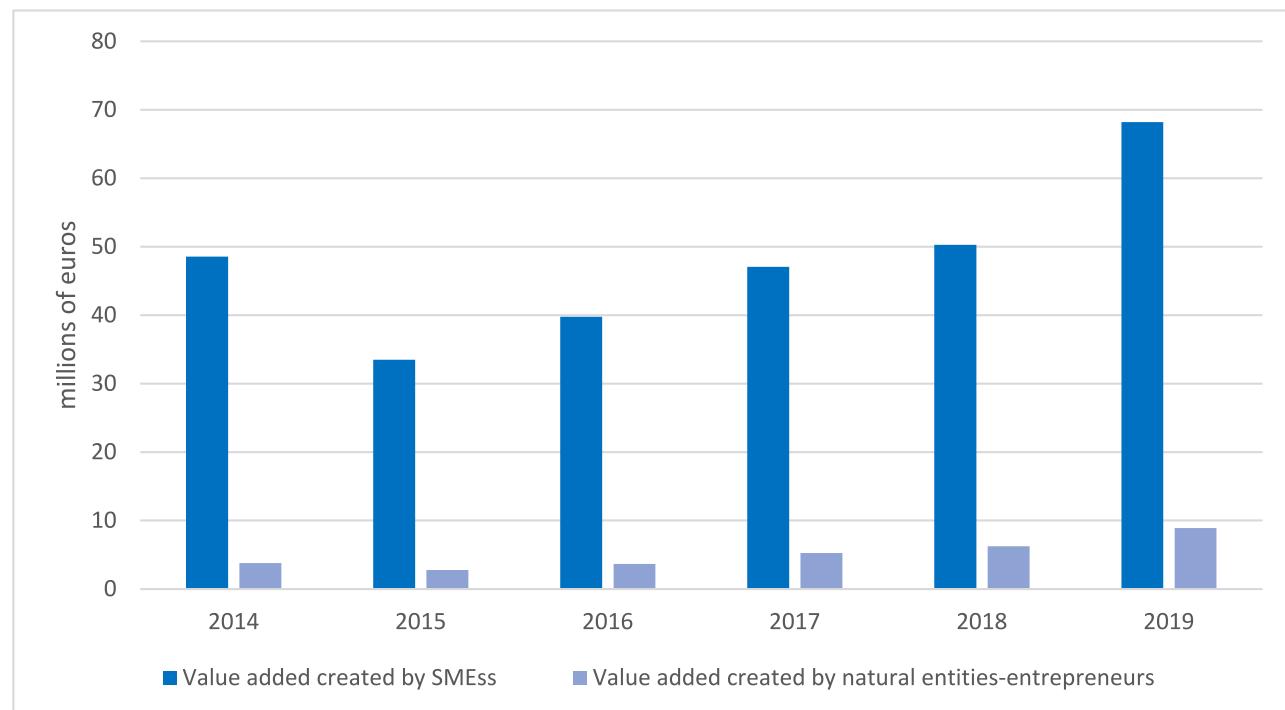
In 2019, SMEs in Ukraine accounted for 66.4% of the value-added generated by business entities. Medium-sized enterprises created the largest share (40%): they generated UAH 1.2 billion or EUR 40.8 million in monetary terms, which was 22.2% more than in 2018. In general, from 2014 to 2019, the share of value-added created by SMEs increased by an average of 21.6%. On the other hand, the value-added created by individual enterprises amounted to EUR 8.9 million, 42.8% more than in 2018 (Figure 6).

Figure 5. Number of SMEs and individual entrepreneurs' employees in Ukraine 2014-2019, in millions of persons



Source: Ukrstat

Figure 6. Value-added created by SMEs and individual entrepreneurs in Ukraine 2014-2019, millions of euros



Source: based on the Ukrstat data

The share of SMEs in the total exports of all Ukrainian enterprises was 30%, which is 5.5% more than in 2018. According to the Ministry of Economy, over 14 000 Ukrainian companies exported to the EU in 2020 (Radio Svoboda, 2021), mainly SMEs. The share of SMEs in Ukraine has been growing gradually, leading to an increase in the number of employees and the creation of value-added. SMEs

also continue to increase their export capacity, which has a positive impact on Ukraine's economy. The Government of Ukraine is doing a lot to develop SMEs in Ukraine, but these efforts need to be continued.

Good practices and limitations of civil society engagement

The main mechanisms that Ukraine's civil society uses to promote SMEs' exports to the EU are informing SMEs about DCFTA norms and peculiarities through public events. Civil society provides some consulting services, which help SMEs to gain relatively cheap consulting. Matchmaking is realised through access to European information portals where partners can be found and by organising exhibitions and conferences in the EU. Civil society also provides services allowing the SMEs to increase the quality of their websites, enhancing their sales and communicational skills. The focus of civil society activities related to promotion and to informing SMEs changed over 2014-2021. Just after the DCFTA launch in 2014, a significant number of projects began to give information about the new rules for exports to the EU and new-for-Ukrainian SMEs' requirements and practices regarding quality and safety of goods (especially of agricultural and food products). Later, the scope of projects shifted to the description of export opportunities in the EU and the analysis of DCFTA implementation.

The role of the Ukrainian network of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (CCI) is of particular interest, as their activity is regulated by separate legislation. The CCI plays an essential role in the export promotion of regional businesses on the EU market by consulting and guiding a potential exporter through export procedures. The CCI is also actively involved in giving information about legal peculiarities, including certification, in different countries in the EU. In addition, the CCI is the main organiser of conferences and exhibitions and educational activities related to production and exports. From the perspective of the sectoral division of implemented and ongoing projects, there is a strong bias favouring the agriculture and food industries - this is obvious both from the database of projects which were implemented and from interviews and focus groups. This could be explained by the greater diversity and complications of commitments related to the agriculture and food industries in the AA/DCFTA. In addition, the availability of funding could be another factor for the sectoral focus. The interviews showed that the respondents consider that civil society substitutes for the (regional) authorities in informing, consulting and supporting SMEs in their export ambitions.

The impact of civil society - based on interviews and focus groups

The interviews and focus groups showed that civil society activities in promoting SMEs exports to the EU had a moderate impact. The respondents know about the civil society projects, including analysis, public events, matchmaking and training. In addition, about a third of the interviews claimed that they know multiple analytical projects. The most frequently mentioned CSO is the Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI). Moreover, the respondents also often named the Export Promotion Office (being initially registered as an NGO before turning into a public agency in 2016 (Foundation for Support of Reforms in Ukraine, 2017)), European Enterprise Network (EEN), European Business Association (EBA), and Institute for Economic Research and Policy Consulting (IER), and sectoral business associations. The most frequently mentioned activities at the core of civil society projects are analysis and public events, especially in the first years of the DCFTA launch. In addition, the respondents claimed that information resources such as information digests and analytic papers prepared by the civil society have been valuable.

The most-needed and valuable practice for supporting exports, from the comments of both SMEs and civil society, is matchmaking – finding trade partners in the EU. This type of activity is seen in EU databases of potential partners, the organisation of exhibitions and conferences of Ukrainian companies and products abroad, and direct communication with EU companies. Over half of those interviewed stated that matchmaking is either important or the most important type of activity. Focus group participants have also noted that matchmaking is the most useful activity for business,

as there is a need for solid export promotion from civil society. Training is also assessed as useful, efficient and effective for business. In particular, the respondents highlighted the usefulness of training devoted to adaptation and implementation of European norms (especially of safety and quality of goods). Focus groups showed a further need for SMEs education and training, including export management, digital marketing, and English communication skills. SMEs also require support in quality and safety certification.

Significant impact also comes from events organised by CSOs, and information which they provide to SMEs and Government. This information support helps state institutions to highlight major problems and trends that those institutions do not themselves observe. Such information offers essential insights for policymaking. It was also found that despite the large number of implemented projects related to giving information about opportunities, this direction needs to be continued. Many SMEs still do not fully understand export procedures. For the SMEs, the information provided by civil society gives free access to valuable insights on the development and investment potential of different industries in Ukraine and the macroeconomic and financial situation in the country. Events, as was mentioned above, are needed for networking among Ukrainian businesses, which leads to a clustering effect and spill-over of knowledge and to the workforce as positive externalities.

In general, those activities are considered to be of reasonable quality, however, opinions on this question are pretty diverse. Some interviewees highlight that some actions are of high quality, some are not. Several interviewees said that sectoral business associations are closer to businesses they represent and, therefore, more efficient. Focus groups highlighted that there is a need for more collaboration to have more efficient lobbying and advocacy. In particular, business representatives underlined the critical role of civil society activities in advocating for policy changes favourable for businesses vis-à-vis Ukraine's central and regional authorities. They also expect civil society to promote the interest of Ukraine's companies in the EU, in particular by helping to join the European sectoral business associations to give Ukrainian businesses a voice there.

In general, civil society has been deemed to be a vital instrument for SMEs to communicate their legal, procedural, and other problems and how SMEs see their solution with Ukrainian state institutions and the EU. A significant share of respondents and focus group members have mentioned a strong need for the Ukrainian government to understand the issues that arise for SMEs, and for the state to receive feedback from SMEs on the effectiveness and usefulness of ongoing and planned measures. Most interviewees highlighted that the civil society has some influence and impact on government and policy decisions, and only one said there was zero influence. Some mentioned that the influence increased after the conclusion of the AA/DCFTA. Partly, it can be linked to the presence of former civil society representatives in different public positions. Considering the broader societal impact, about a third of interviewees commented that there was some influence on society; however, its level is hard to measure.

Best civil society practices

Interviewees and participants in focus groups gave many examples of successful projects in the EU. In particular, the School of Exporters held by the CCI is a successful project frequently mentioned by interviewees and focus group participants. The idea of the project is to educate potential exporters. The training program gives both general knowledge, e.g., the need to maintain online marketing and communication, and more precise instructions, e.g., the certification of goods and the legal aspects of exports. The Lviv School of Exporters is mentioned most frequently, although different regional CCIs conducted similar schools.

Another example of successful practice is the European Enterprise Network. It is a part of the COSME project and is embodied by CCI. This project is focused on matchmaking, the most helpful activity for SMEs according to interviews. This network helps to find trade partners in the EU and gives consulting regarding export into the EU, and it allows SMEs to target their potential partners accurately.

Apart from civil society projects, respondents mentioned large EU-funded projects targeting the

SMEs' export promotion. Competitiveness of Small and Medium Enterprises (COSME) is the project most frequently mentioned as practical and valuable. COSME is the EU project that provides resources for SMEs for export promotion and increasing their competitiveness. In 2014-2020, Ukrainian businesses had access to EUR 900 million of financing. As for the potential role of Ukrainian civil society, the interviewees noticed a need for support of SMEs to fill in applications for participation in this project.

Limitations of the civil society engagement

The interviews and focus group discussions highlighted several limitations of civil society engagement, including the lack of cooperation, communication gaps, and resource limitation (financing, quality of personnel). The issue of civil society cooperation and coordination has been mentioned frequently during interviews and focus groups. It is perceived that cooperation and coordination could lead to higher specialisation and thus increase civil society efficiency, and collaboration could also facilitate lobbying. This limitation could possibly be overcome by permanent dialogue and cooperation among civil society, which could be embodied by an organisation of platforms for dialogue and cross-civil society organisations such as the National Platform of Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum. In addition to intra-Ukraine cooperation, the suggestion is to strengthen the integration of Ukrainian sectoral business associations into European structures that would help to boost their impact.

The respondents also mentioned communication gaps resulting in insufficient awareness about civil society services, depriving the SMEs of better information and potential benefits, and the inadequacy of the transforming of civil society recommendations into actions. Therefore, better civil society communication in the targeting of different audiences – from Government to SMEs and public – is advisable. Next, it is essential to highlight that civil society has limited resources, both financial and personnel. During interviews and focus groups, the participants emphasised that the Ukrainian state does not finance or coordinate civil society. There are two primary sources of civil society funding, namely fees of the members and donor funds. These types of financing frequently dictate project topics and types of activities. Although many respondents consider that donors' support does not create civil society prejudices or inadequacy, some believe that donors are biased in their support towards those sectors of Ukrainian economies which are beneficial for those countries - firstly agriculture and food. Moreover, business representatives complain that the topics of projects do not match SMEs needs.

Conclusions and recommendations

The SME sector in Ukraine accounts for 99% of all enterprises; the vast majority are micro. SMEs employ 82% of all employees in business, and their primary areas of activity are trade, agriculture, and industry. SMEs account for 66% of the value-added created by companies in Ukraine. The Government of Ukraine recently adopted and started implementing long-term strategies for SMEs development, however, a regional strategy for SMEs development is lacking.

We identified 35 CSOs in Ukraine actively implementing projects that were informing SME representatives about opportunities regarding DCFTA in 2014-2020. In total, these CSOs implemented 66 projects, with such outputs as workshops, courses, analytical reports, etc. The most popular activity was events concerning DCFTA, and the main topic was economic development. Noteworthy was that the focus of the civil society projects changed as DCFTA implementation progressed. Immediately after the AA launch, projects were primarily focused on informing SMEs about the new rules. Later the demand and focus shifted towards opportunities and DCFTA implementation.

According to interviews and focus groups, matchmaking is the most demanded and efficient civil society activity for SMEs. Training is also assessed as valuable and practical for business. Still, there is a vast need for further education events and training, including export management, digital marketing, and English communication skills. SMEs also require support in quality and safety certification. The interviews and focus group discussions highlighted several limitations of civil society engagement, including the lack of cooperation, communication gaps, and resource limitation (financing and the quality of personnel).

Recommendations

For civil society:

- Improve cooperation among civil society to increase efficiency, cover a broader range of topics and strengthen the overall impact. The use of civil society platforms, like the National Platform of Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum, is recommended.
- Focus on matchmaking and training in informing and promoting SMEs exports to the EU as the most efficient and in line with demands by SMEs activities.
- Involve SME representatives in the discussion of the civil society agenda related to providing information for SMEs. The business representatives are the end-users of civil society' work in disseminating information about the opportunities that arise within the DCFTA framework. Accordingly, it is advisable to deepen communication between civil society representatives and SMEs.
- Improve civil society public communication to increase SMEs awareness about the civil society services, and facilitate the conversion of civil society recommendations into actions

For Ukrainian Government:

- Involve civil society in the regional development and implementation of export strategies in the context of SME development. At a regional level, micro and small enterprises often lack direct communication and thus support from local authorities. CSOs who communicate with these SMEs know their needs and can convey them to the authorities.
- Collaborate with civil society in organizing and supporting dialogue between government and business on the implementation of the EU quality standards. SMEs' representatives claim that these types of certificates have high costs that are unaffordable for them. In addition, SMEs lack knowledge that civil society can help supply.

For relevant EU stakeholders:

- Listen to the topics and problems that are of interest to SMEs. Most projects implemented by civil society today are topics of interest to donors of these projects. However, their vision of the crucial issues often fails to match what SME representatives' need, and as a result inappropriate and unwanted information or events are delivered. In turn, this creates a bias in the activities of CSOs themselves, which is often a subject of complaints from businesses.
- Establish direct cooperation among Ukrainian business associations and relevant European organisations. Ukrainian business representatives raise the problem of lack of direct connections between Ukrainian and EU business associations, making it hard to find partners in the EU.

Conclusions

SMEs are the backbones of the Georgian, Moldovan and Ukrainian economies, representing around 99% of all active enterprises in the three countries. However, SMEs struggle to take up the trade opportunities offered by the DCFTAs, and their exports to the EU remain limited.

In this respect, civil society has an important role to play in terms of informing the SMEs about the benefits as well as challenges of DCFTA implementation. The study underlines that civil society's engagement in the promotion of SMEs' exports through DCFTA benefits is positive but remains quite limited even after five years of the enforcement of the DCFTAs. Among the main limitations, the report highlights the lack of communication and cooperation between SMEs and government bodies, and insufficient lobbying and advocacy activities to mainstream SME's interests and promote their exports to the EU. Among the constraints that society faces in the three countries to improve their engagement, our findings point to the lack of civil society's knowledge and expertise on the DCFTAs, and lack of resources, including funding, human capital and qualifications.

Given these limitations, the report recommends that civil society should improve its engagement with DCFTA implementation and supporting SMEs to reap the full benefits of the Agreements. In particular, civil society is encouraged to keep and extend training, matchmaking and raising awareness for SMEs of the DCFTAs. In addition, civil society is advised to play a more active role in setting up a dialogue and promoting coordination between national governments and the SMEs.

To improve the scale and effectiveness of civil society's activities, the study highlights the need for cross-country cooperation among the CSOs of Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine. As for future support projects, programmes and grants from the EU, the study suggests the EU redirects funds to support programmes which best reflect the needs of the SMEs. Moreover, the study suggests improving the sustainability of EU funds to allow the growth and development of SMEs over the medium to long-term period. This should also include empowering women's entrepreneurship, as the study revealed a gender gap across the representatives of both civil society and SMEs in all the three countries. In addition, the report recommends strengthening cooperation among business representatives and all relevant stakeholders from the three countries and from the EU. Importantly, this could help SMEs from the three countries to find connections and business partners in the EU.

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Annex 1. List of interviews

- Interview with David Bujiashvili, Head of the EU Assistance Coordination and Sectorial Integration Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia, 17 August 2020, via MS Zoom.
- Interview with Dmytro Shulha, Director of the European Initiative of the International Renaissance Foundation, 20 July 2020, via Zoom.
- Interview with Dumitru Pântea, Program Director "Business Sector and SMEs", Expert-Group, 22nd September 2021.
- Interview with Galyna Perepelitsia, Independent Expert, 16 July 2020, via face-to-face interviews.
- Interview with Keti Gogotchuri, Head of Analytical and Research Department Georgian Farmers' Association, 21 August 2021, via Zoom.
- Interview with Lasha Niauri, Head of International Relations and European Integration Department, Ministry of Agriculture of Georgia, 23 August 2021, via Zoom.
- Interview with Maksim Voytovych, CEO for Foreign Economic Affairs in "Terra Food", 28 July 2020, via Zoom.
- Interview with Mariam Gabunia, Head of Foreign Trade & International Economic Relations Department, Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia, 24 August 2021, Via Zoom.
- Interview with Natalia Caleinic, Deputy Director of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Republic of Moldova (CCI), 23rd September 2021.
- Interview with Natalia Caleinic, Deputy Director of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Republic of Moldova (CCI), 23rd September 2021.
- Interview with Olha Krasko, CEO of Corporation "Profi", 29 July 2020, via Zoom.
- Interview with Olha Krasovska, representative of NGO Ukrainian Evaluation Association, 29 July 2020, via Zoom.
- Interview with Olha Shubina, Eugene Kurulenka, Vira Kuznetsova, representatives of the Ukrainian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, 15 July 2020, via face-to-face interviews.
- Interview with Tetyana Miskova, CEO of Export Promotion Office of Ukraine, 20 July 2020, via face-to-face interviews.
- Interview with Viacheslav Roj, Chairman of the Federation of Trade Unions of Small and Medium Enterprises of Ukraine, 22 July 2020, via face-to-face interviews.
- Interview with Volodymyr Koryd, Vice-President of Lviv Chamber of Commerce and Industry, 29 July 2020, via Zoom.

Annex 2. Civil Society Mapping – Georgia

Project title	Implementing CSO	Project duration	Donors	Activities	Topics	Regional coverage	Link	Budget
Better Commercial Law and Legal Practice in Georgia	GIZ	2019-2021	GIZ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Organized Webinars with various experts. ➤ Provided with different reading materials about commercial law. 	Business, Justice	All Georgia	https://www.facebook.com/giz.law.ge	€1 300 000
Georgia on European Way: Creation of Effective Model for DCFTA and SME Strategy Implementation	EESC – GIP, Atinati, ABCO, Intellect, GLOBSEC Georgia, Caucasus Genetics	2017-2019	EU4Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Increased awareness about DCFTA provided opportunities and Georgian participation in the EU single market. ➤ Conducted trainings ➤ Wrote different publications. 	import and export duties, trade remedies, tariff rate quotas, technical barriers to trade,	All Georgia	https://www.facebook.com/GeorgiaDCFTA	€400 000
Regional Civil Society Organisations as Vectors of Rural Economic Development	People in Need – PMCG, Bridge, Rural Communities Development Agency (RCDA), ATINATI	2017-2019	EU4Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Coached CSOs in different regions ➤ Developed a framework for product research ➤ Data collection assistance ➤ Organizing workshops and discussions ➤ Policy briefs 	customs and trade facilitation, Trade barriers in General	Tbilisi	N/A	€500 000
EU4Business: Connecting Companies	EUCHAMBRES	2020-2022	EU4Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Targeting specific groups and areas. ➤ Concentrating on strengthening SMEs. ➤ attracting investments in new sectors, and increasing trade opportunities by supporting access to new markets. 	import and export duties, trade barriers in general	EAP Countries	https://connectingcompanies.eu/ https://www.facebook.com/EU4BCC https://twitter.com/EU4BCC	€6 500 000
EU4Youth: Social Entrepreneurship Ecosystem Development (SEED) Programme for Green Growth in Borderline Communities	CENN; Green Lane (AM); Kakheti Regional Development Foundation (KRDF)	2019-2022	European Union	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Creating multi-stakeholder platforms. ➤ Helping to improve skills and knowledge about different topics especially in rural areas. ➤ Focusing on green innovations. 	eco-design and eco-labelling,	Georgia and Armenia	N/A	N/A
EU4Youth – Social Entrepreneurship in Armenia and Georgia (SEAG)	Mercy Corps Europe; NGO Development Principles (AM); Association of Business Consulting Organizations of Georgia (ABCO)	2020-2022	EU4Youth, European Union	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Conducting trainings. ➤ Helping young generation to apply for certain fundings. ➤ Mentoring 	eco-design and eco-labelling,	Georgia and Armenia	http://www.mercycorps.ge/index.php/ongoing-projects/ongoing-projects/eu4youth-seag	€1 499 904
EU4Business – DCFTA SME Direct Support Facility	EBRD	2014-2024	EBRD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ lending to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). ➤ Financial and technical assistance 	trade barriers in general	Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine	https://eu4business.eu/programme/dcfta-sme-direct-finance-facility?destination=programmes%3Fpage%3D1	€10 220 000
EU4Youth: Social Entrepreneurship Ecosystem Development (SEED) Programme for Green Growth in Borderline Communities	CENN; Kakheti Regional Development Foundation	2019-2022	European Union	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Creating multi-stakeholder platforms. ➤ Helping to improve skills and knowledge about different topics especially in rural areas. ➤ Focusing on green innovations. 	eco-design and eco-labelling, customs and trade facilitation	Samtskhe-Javakheti; Kakheti; Shida Kartli,	http://www.environment.cenn.org/	€1 600 000
AFD-ENPARD Programme for access to agricultural finance for small scale semi-commercial farms and cooperatives FinExCoop Georgia	Agence Française de Développement, Association Rural Development for Future, Mercy Corps, Frankfurt School of Finance and Management, CHAMBRES D'AGRICULTURE CENTRE-VAL DE LOIRE	2017-2022	Agence Française de Développement, European Union	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Technical assistance to local financial groups. ➤ Assisting farmers and people involved in agriculture to contact to the stakeholders and address their issues. 	agriculture, trade barriers in general	All Georgia	http://www.finexcoop.com/www.facebook.com/Finexcoop-Georgia-104576834812461	€4 000 000

Support to Sakpatenti	European Union Intellectual Property Office	2020-2022	European Union	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Meetings with stakeholders. ➢ Trainings 	Intellectual property rights protection,	All Georgia	https://internationalcooperation.eu/en/eugipp	€1 000 000
Technical Assistance to Skills Development for Matching Labour Market Needs	GOPA Worldwide Consultants GMBH	2019-2023	GOPA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ National sector policies were improved and implemented ➢ Skills development activities ➢ Youth advice. 	trade barriers in general	All Georgia	N/A	€3 711 970
Collaborate for Impact – development of social entrepreneurship and social investments in the Eastern Partnership countries and Russia	European Venture Philanthropy Association (EVPA) - The Center for Strategic Research and Development of Georgia (GSRDG)	2020-2025	European Union	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Sharing successful examples from the past experience. ➢ technical and financial support. ➢ Mapping studies. ➢ Policy dialogue 	Ecosystems, trade barriers in general	EAP countries and Russia	https://collaborate4impact.org/	€5 000 000
Local Action Group Tskaltubo	People in Need	2019-2022	European Union	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ LEADER Strategy which ensures the transparency of the projects and activities. 	Ecosystems, trade barriers in general	Imereti, Georgia	https://www.facebook.com/PeopleInNeedGeorgiaPIN https://www.facebook.com/LAGTskaltubo/	€1 000 000
EU4Business: Eastern Partnership Trade Helpdesk	International Trade Centre	2019-2024	EU4Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Creating an online portal providing the information about the EU and the region ➢ Export guides for the selected products 	Trade barriers in general	EAP Countries	N/A	€3 700 000
Local LEADERs Embrace Sustainable Development in Multi-Ethnic Tsalka Municipality (EMBRACE Tsalka)	CENN, Georgian Farmers Association,	2018-2022	European Union	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Create and empower Tsalka Local Action Group (LAG) with equal gender and youth participation, representing vulnerable groups following the participatory approach and LEADER principles. 	Agriculture, trade barriers in general	Kvemo Kartli, Georgia	https://www.facebook.com/EmbraceTsalka	€1 917 843
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ develop gender and youth sensitive development strategy on the local level. 				
Implementing LEADER in Mestia municipality for better livelihoods in high mountainous regions of Georgia	Care International, P MCG	2018-2022	European Union	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Developed action plans to implement cultural, infrastructure, sport and educational projects 	Agriculture, trade barriers in general	Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti, Georgia	https://www.facebook.com/LAGMestia	€1 992 355
Optimising the Potential of Local Assets for Rural Development of Keda Municipality	CENN, Democracy Institute, CSRDG,	2017-2021	European Union	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Developed action plans to implement cultural, infrastructure, sport and educational projects 	Agriculture, trade barriers in general	Adjara	https://www.facebook.com/KedaLeaderkedalag.ge	€1 999 150
Support to Georgian National Agency for Standards and Metrology (GEOSTM) for further implementation of the EU-Georgia Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA) requirements	BRITISH STANDARDS INSTITUTION ROYAL CHARTER	2017-2019	European Union	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Capacity building for Standardization department. ➢ Awareness raising activities. ➢ Support to metrology institute. 	Trade barriers in general, trade remedies, trade facilitation	Tbilisi	N/A	€1 200 000
Women in Business	EBRD	2015-2022	EBRD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Orienting on women empowerment and helping SMEs to create their products. 	women support, trade barriers in general	N/A	https://ebrdworldmeninbusiness.com/	€5 035 000
EU4Business – EBRD Credit Line	EBRD	2017-2027	EBRD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Direct support to SMEs and opportunities to apply. ➢ Organizing webinars and discussions. 	Trade barriers in general	N/A	https://www.eu4business-ebrdcreditline.com/	€19 430 000
EU4Business – EBRD Credit Line – Phase II	EBRD	2017-2027	EBRD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Direct support to SMEs and opportunities to apply. 	Trade barriers in general	N/A	N/A	€38 900 000

				➤ Organizing webinars and discussions.				
Promotion of rural development and diversification in Khulo Municipality	Caritas Czech Republic; Policy Consulting and Management Group (PMCG) ; Hrvatska Mreža za Ruralni Razvoj (HMRR)	2018-2021	European Union	➤ Establishment and empowerment of the Local Action Group. ➤ Development of the Local Development Strategy by the LAG, based on the LEADER approach.	agriculture, trade barriers in general	Adjara	http://www.khuloplag.ge/	€1 800 000
Food and Agriculture SME Support Initiative (FASSI)	GEORGIAN FARMERS ASSOCIATION	2017-2019	European Union	➤ Improved BSO management, organization and knowledge in DCFTA related issues. ➤ Improved BSO ability to interact effectively with their member and non-member SMEs and farmers. ➤ Improved BSO capacity assisting SMEs with food safety regulation compliance and access to EU markets.	trade facilitation, trade barriers in general	Tbilisi	https://gfa.org.ge/en/project/food-agriculture-sme-support-initiative-fassi	€477 478
Promoting a New Rural Development Approach in Akhalkalaki	Georgian Institute of Public Affairs Foundation	2016-2020	European Union	➤ Established Akhalkalaki Local Action Group. ➤ Development strategy developed for Akhalkalaki ➤ Established Women and youth support groups.	trade barriers in general	Tbilisi	https://akhalkalakikilag.ge/	€2 200 000
Promoting Citizen Engagement for Economic Development (PROCEED)	HEKS-EPER Georgia, ELKANA	2016-2020	European Union	➤ A replicable system of cooperation among local stakeholders ➤ Local development strategy for Dedoflitskaro	trade barriers in general	Kakheti	http://www.heks-eper.ro/en/projects/rural-development-in-georgia/	€2 104 346
Rural Development for Sustainable Growth of Tetritskaro Municipality	Association Rural Development For Future Georgia	2016-2020	European Union	➤ Local Action Group is established. ➤ Local development strategy is set.	trade barriers in general	Kvemo Kartli, Georgia	https://rdfg.ge/what-we-do/enpard/	€2 127 260
Local Action Group Kazbegi	People in Need	2015-2017	European Union	➤ Local Action Group is established. ➤ Local development strategy is set.	trade barriers in general	Kazbegi	www.facebook.com/LAGKazbegi	€9 590 416
DCFTA Adaptation Programme (DAP) Support for SME competitiveness in Georgia	EBRD	2015-2019	EBRD	➤ Provided technical and financial assistance to SMEs.	trade facilitation, trade barriers in general	Tbilisi	N/A	€4 500 000
SME Development and DCFTA in GEORGIA	GIZ	2015-2019	GIZ, European Union	➤ Improved institutional capacities of central administrations to design and implement specific measures within the SMEs context. ➤ Strengthened public-private policy dialogue.	trade facilitation, trade barriers in general	Tbilisi	N/A	€5 033 940
EU4Business – Eastern Partnership: Ready to Trade	International Trade Centre	2017-2021	European Union	➤ Roadmaps developed for selected value chains in each country. ➤ Capacities of SMEs strengthened to increase value added production and improve competitiveness. ➤ Capacities of sectoral BSOs enhanced to provide SMEs with quality and relevant services along the value chains. ➤ Business linkages created for SMEs to expand sales in international markets and value chains, in particular the EU.	trade facilitation	EAP countries	https://eu4business.eu/programme/eastern-partnership-ready-trade-eu4business-initiative?destination=programmes%3Fpartner_list%3D1934%26partner1934%3Don	€6 000 000
Alliances Caucasus Programme	Mercy Corps Georgia	2018-2019	Swiss Cooperation Office, Austrian Development Cooperation	➤ The programme has extensive networks and works in partnership with all levels of the private sector, civil society and government.	trade facilitation	All Georgia	https://www.alcp.ge/index.php	N/A
Skills for Success	Stichting Save the Children Nederland; Youth Worker's Association of Georgia	2020-2023	European Union	➤ Competencies and pre-requisites for the non-formal education and skills of the target youth are built. ➤ Employability capacity among youth is increased.	trade barriers in general	Tbilisi, Kakheti, Shida Kartli, Guria and Racha-Lechkhumi.	https://www.facebook.com/save.thechildrengeorgia/about/?ref=page_internal	€1 000 000

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ International network is built for educational resource and best practices exchange. 				
EU4Youth: fostering potential for greater employability	Dansk Rode Kors (DK); Georgia Red Cross Society (GE); Armenian Red Cross Society (AM); Belarus Red Cross (BY)	2018-2021	European Union	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Raised awareness by helping with special trainings and workshops. ➤ Entrepreneurship skills development. 	trade facilitation, trade barriers in general	Armenia, Belarus and Georgia	N/A	€1 330 000
Clusters 4 Development – Better Business Sophistication in Georgia	GIZ	2019-2023	GIZ, European Union	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Market and thematic oriented clusters are established. 	trade facilitation, trade barriers in general	Tbilisi; Imereti; Kakheti	N/A	€5 300 000
EU4Business – Supporting SME Competitiveness Reforms	OECD	2013-2017	OECD, European Union	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ policy dialogue through capacity building and peer review at regional level. 	trade barriers in general			€2 500 000
Improving the Agriculture Sector in Georgia (ENPARD III)	The Food and Agricultural Organization of United Nations (FAO)	2018-2022	European Union	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Improved access to finance, better services and inputs for farmers ➤ rural households, cooperatives and other small and medium enterprises in rural areas. 	trade barriers in general	All Georgia	http://www.fao.org/georgia	€12 000 000
CSOs for Sustainable Economic Development – Strengthening Role of CSOs in DCFTA and SME Policy Implementation in Georgia	KONRAD ADENAUER STIFTUNG, EPRC, Atinati	2017-2019	KAS, European Union	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Production of information video clips and their dissemination in regional TV Channels and social networks. ➤ Field visits of CSOs and information campaigns on DCFTA and SME policies 	trade barriers in general	Tbilisi		€478 600
EU4Business: From Policies to Action	OECD	2017-2021	OECD, European Union	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Improved strategic policy framework for private sector development (strategies/action plans). 	trade barriers in general, facilitation		https://www.oecd.org/urasia/competitiveness-programme/eastern-	€4 000 000
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Enhanced institutional capacity of the government to deliver support to the private sector. 			partners/eesciminitiative-project1.htm	
Support to the Eastern Partnership SME Flagship (EU4Business Secretariat)	N/A	2016-2019	European Union	N/A	N/A	N/A	https://eu4georgia.ge/support-to-the-eastern-partnership-sme-flagship-eu4business-secretariat/	€2 500 000
EU4Business – DCFTA Initiative East	EIB	2016-2021	European Union	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Access to finance, micro-finance, local currency lending. ➤ Technical assistance (capacity building). 	trade facilitation, trade barriers in general	Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine	https://www.eib.org/en/projects/regions/eastern-neighbours/instruments/dcfta/index.htm	€62 740 000
EU Association Agreement for Increasing Competitiveness of SMEs in Georgia	EPRC	2018-2021	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Market research and sector analysis; ➤ Study tours for SMEs organized in Sweden and EU countries. ➤ Workshops, Masterclasses, consultations and trainings organized. ➤ Partnership with Media ➤ Capacity building support in export direction. 	to increase domestic and international competitiveness of Georgian SMEs through identification and promotion of new sectors, increasing their skills and capacity, providing assistance in implementing EU's AA and DCFTA requirements.	All Georgia	https://eprc.ge/i/index.php?m=88&fund_id=2	\$ 2,300,000
Develop Three Policy Papers on Selected DCFTA Topics and Facilitate Analysis-based Discussions	EPRC	2017	USAID Governing for Growth (G4G)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Writing Policy papers with at least 3 To strengthen the knowledge different recommendations for the and experience within DCFTA government 	agreement and SMEs using writing policy papers.	All Georgia	https://eprc.ge/i/index.php?m=88&fund_id=5	27,074 \$
Preparing Analytical Articles within DCFTA	EPRC	2017	Open Society Georgia Foundation (OSGF)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Writing 5 analytical articles. 	Research concentrating on food safety and animal health requirements.	All Georgia	https://eprc.ge/i/index.php?m=88&fund_id=7	1,950 \$

Research and monitoring of DCFTA impact on Georgian small-holder farmers	EPRC	2015	Oxfam/EU	➤ Comprehensive reports with comprehensive analyses provided in English.	to investigate the impact of Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement (DCFTA) on the smallholder agricultural production in Georgia.	All Georgia	https://eprc.ge/i_ndex.php?m=88&fund_id=28	9,980 EUR
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Annex 3. Civil Society Mapping – Ukraine

No	Project title	Implementing CSOs	Project duration	Donors	Activities	Topics	Regional coverage	Link	Budget
1.	Understanding AA/DCFTA between the EU and Ukraine, Moldova, and Georgia (3dcftas.eu)	CEPS (Belgium), IER (Ukraine), Expert Group (Moldova), Reformatics (Georgia)	April 2015 - December 2021	SIDA (Sweden)	➤ Analysis ➤ Events	All DCFTA	Ukraine (no regional coverage)	3dcftas.eu	n/a
2.	Integration of Ukraine into common market of UE: achievements in since of Agreement of association and need of modernisation	IER	2020 ongoing	Fund "Renaissance" and EU	➤ Analysis ➤ Events	Implementation of DCFTA	Ukraine (no regional coverage)	https://www.prostir.ua/event/ekonomichna-intehratsiya-z-es-scho-vzhe-maje-j-scho-mozhe-otrymaty-ukrajina/	797 950 UAH
3.	Does Ukraine need protectionism ? Possibilities and restrictions of DCFTA with EU	IER	11-2018 - 06-2019	Fund "Renaissance" and EU	➤ Analysis ➤ Events	Protectionism and DCFTA	Ukraine (no regional coverage)	http://www.ier.com.ua/en/projects?pid=6071	500 000 UAH
4.	Financial Health Forum in Kyiv	Ukrainian Venture Capital and Private Equity Association (UVCA)	2 days every year since 2018	Ukrainian Venture Capital and Private Equity Association (UVCA)	➤ Events ➤ Capacity building	Development of start-ups	Ukraine (no regional coverage)	https://uvca.eu/uploads/uvca-presentation.pdf	20 000 USD
5.	Ukraine House in Davos/Ukrainian Davos Nights 2017	Ukrainian Venture Capital and Private Equity Association (UVCA)	years 2017-2019, event for couple of days	Ukrainian Venture Capital and Private Equity Association (UVCA)	➤ Events ➤ Matchmaking	Information promotion and for Ukrainian businesses	Davos (Switzerland), Kyiv, Odesa	https://uvca.eu/uploads/uvca-presentation.pdf	n/a
6.	Ukraine Discovery Tour	Ukrainian Venture Capital and Private Equity Association (UVCA)	3-4 days every year	Ukrainian Venture Capital and Private Equity Association (UVCA)	➤ Events ➤ Matchmaking	Matchmaking of European businesses with Ukrainian one	Ukraine (no regional coverage)	https://uvca.eu/uploads/uvca-presentation.pdf	n/a
7.	Adaptation of certain norms of agreement about Association Ukraine-EU Ukraine association - EU and establishing effective communication	Vinnytsya Oblast NGO "Union of Entrepreneurs " STINA"	2019	EuropeAid	➤ Analysis	Information considering adaptation of EU norms in agricultural sphere	Vinnytsia region	https://stina.org.ua/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/istorivi-uspihu-vinnitskoyi-oblasti.pdf	n/a

No	Project title	Implementing CSOs	Project duration	Donors	Activities	Topics	Regional coverage	Link	Budget
	n of the supervisory and control companies, SME, and the public regarding their implementation in a part of effective execution of systems and standards of food safety and quality of food products in Vinnytsya region								
8.	European Integration Progress Index	Bukovinian Agency for Regional Development	2014-2019	"MATRA", Netherlands	➤ Analysis	Informing	Chernivtsi region	https://drive.google.com/file/d/1OU8BoISYS6tOSZsOhXqrHvjM3q9hEDps/view?fbclid=IwAR0Xm-Bwfj83_JKLAGNUt_FmQo2s9KmytgR00t1srY_5t-bmzxWbS7HWc4	n/a
9.	Free trade area with EU: regional anticipations before signing of DCFTA	Bukovinian Agency for Regional Development	2015	Fund "Renaissance"	➤ Analysis	Information; analysis	Chernivtsi region	https://www.bard.cv.ua/home/publications/zona_vilnoietorgivilizesociuvannaregionivneperedodnipidpisannaugodiproasociaciumaterialiproektu	n/a
10.	Adaptation agricultural producers to European legislation: 1st stage	ICO "Information center "Green Dossier"	2017-2018	Fund "Renaissance" and Ukrainian side of Platform of Civil Society Ukraine-EU	➤ Analysis ➤ Events ➤ Capacity building	Adaptation to EU legislation; agriculture	Ukraine (Kyiv, Poltava, Uzhhorod) - for 10 regions	https://old.dossier.org.ua/adaptation	n/a
11.	Regional context of implementation of the environmental component of the Association Agreement between Ukraine and the EU	Resource and Analysis Center "Society and Environment"	2017	EuropeAid	➤ Analysis	Environment; analysis	Ukraine (no regional coverage)	https://www.rac.org.ua/uploads/content/414/files/regionalcontextresearch.pdf	n/a
12.	Increase of provision of information for small and medium agricultural	ICO "Information center "Green Dossier"	April 2017 - March 2018	Fund "Renaissance" and EU	➤ Analysis ➤ Events ➤ Capacity building	Adaptation to EU legislation; agriculture	Ukraine (no regional coverage)	https://old.dossier.org.ua/adaptaciya-do-zakonodavstva-ies-u-fokusi-mali-ta-seredni-virobniki-agrarnoyi-produkciyi-0	443 850 UAH

No	Project title	Implementing CSOs	Project duration	Donors	Activities	Topics	Regional coverage	Link	Budget
	producers considering adaptation to European legislation								
13.	Youth Entrepreneurship Education in Hospitality and Tourism	NGO "Development center Pangeya Ultima"	2019	Erasmus+ of EU Commission	➢ Capacity building ➢ Matchmaking	Tourism; education	Vinnytsia region	http://www.pangeya.com.ua/index.php/ouractivities/edutrain/319-youth-entrepreneurship-education-in-hospitality-and-tourism.html	n/a
14.	European integration	NGO Agency of European Innovations	April 2017 – May 2018	European Union, International Renaissance Foundation, Civic Synergy Project	➢ Analysis ➢ Events ➢ Matchmaking	Implementation of DCFTA	Ukraine (no regional coverage)	https://aei.org.ua/portflio/ievropeiska-integraciya/	n/a
15.	European experience in provision of agricultural consulting to farmers. Lessons for Ukraine	All-Ukrainian NGO «First All-Ukrainian Agricultural Advisory Service»	2016	European Union	➢ Analysis ➢ Events	Agriculture; consulting	Ukraine (no regional coverage)	https://www.dorada.org.ua/nasha-diyalnist/zakhodi.html	n/a
16.	Discussions considering the future of Eastern partnership	Federation of Trade Unions of Small and Medium Enterprise of Ukraine	2019	n/a	➢ Events	Eastern Partnership	Ukraine (no regional coverage)	http://federation.org.ua/podiitafakti/trivayut-diskusii-shchodo-maibutnogo-skhidnogo-partnerstva.html	n/a
17.	Session considering trade and sustainable development	Federation of Trade Unions of Small and Medium Enterprise of Ukraine	2018	n/a	➢ Events	All DCFTA; development	Ukraine (no regional coverage)	http://federation.org.ua/podiitafakti/vidbulosya-druge-zasidannya-radi-z-pitan-torgivli-ta-stalogorozvitu.html	n/a
18.	Regional network on business incubators (NET-BI)	NGO "Centre of Social Leadership"	2013-2015	n/a	➢ Analysis ➢ Events ➢ Matchmaking	Business creation promotion	Zaporizhzhia region	http://forum.o2.ua/ua/projects/147	n/a
19.	Harmonisation of interests of agents of trans-border cooperation as a factor of local development of border regions of Ukraine	NGO "Quadrivium"	2020	Fund "Renaissance" and EU	➢ Analysis ➢ Events	Border regions in Eastern Partnership	Chernivtsi region	n/a	334 520 UAH

No	Project title	Implementing CSOs	Project duration	Donors	Activities	Topics	Regional coverage	Link	Budget
20.	Dialog considering actions of small agricultural producers in conditions of Association with EU	NGO "Siver Institute of regional studies"	2017	Fund "Renaissance" and EU	➤ Events ➤ Capacity building	Informing	Rivne region	https://institute.sivertraining.org.ua/synergy.php	123 680 UAH
21.	Association Deal with EU: new possibilities for Ukraine	NGO "Internews Ukraine"	2015	Fund "Renaissance" and EU	➤ Events ➤ Capacity building	Informing	Cherkasy	https://www.irf.ua/eksperti_ukraina_e_nevidkritim_eldorado_dlya_europeyskogo_biznesu/	343 300 UAH
22.	Why does Ukraine need financial ombudsman?	US Aid	2017	US Aid	➤ Events	Informing	Kharkiv	http://www.fst-ua.info/ua/lektsiia-dlia-choho-ukraini-potriben-finansovyy-ombudsman/	n/a
23.	Export Promotion Program for SME	Export Promotion Program, WNISEF	2015-2018	US Aid	➤ Capacity building	Financing of exporting SME	Ukraine (no regional coverage)	https://wnisef.org/uk/export-promotion-policy/	35 000 000 USD (including Moldova)
24.	Quick business-meetings	TechUkraine	2019-ongoing	GIZ Germany	➤ Events ➤ Matchmaking	Matchmaking of IT and machine building companies	Ukraine (no regional coverage)	https://techukraine.org/challenges_list/	n/a
25.	AHK-Treff	German-Ukrainian Chamber of Commerce	2019	Membership fees	➤ Events ➤ Matchmaking	All DCFTA; networking	Kyiv	https://mediafra.admiralcloud.com/customer_609/af0fea47-3508-4cfdb78b68fc2f89?response-content-disposition=inline%3B%20filename%3D%22AHK-Treff_UA.pdf%22&Expires=1627562279&Key-Pair-Id=APKA2N3YMV57R4AXMPQ&Signature=b~gfPRM1nnCN0eY1K3k7P3VkBBymvENI~kHR6dr2vGZXLJQERsjt8BBkBQ6VFEfcCoNV-oo5r8zvFNpN-DkkflylsssWoxSK6D4REGvZ8yVDh0MBPhuV0HejVPrwv1G--6We3f~z03AVpAXGwOEWdnoij7Oye7Sv0nzHZ4FEPsSNRE2xKKWc-V-fQVkrZkkZcan3mJLXeVoIWIVYLqC7t6tkN42hf0rn0gDkBsRgXQj~iASPasE~7ImofZkDk1ikrZVO8DAOvkqZOlnhcSZQvUn2ChdGkfa2rtuvpuCyWhfmhJ-8Kri~3yDuDiv7ESf3J~44DOa4xxgdTP5EmA	n/a

No	Project title	Implementing CSOs	Project duration	Donors	Activities	Topics	Regional coverage	Link	Budget
26.	Strategy "From field to table" - opportunities for production and export of agriculture	German-Ukrainian Chamber of Commerce	2020	Membership fees	➢ Analysis ➢ Events	Events in agriculture	Ukraine (no regional coverage)	https://ukraine.ahk.de/u/a/events/event-details/eu-strategie-vom-feld-zum-tisch-im-fokus-mschft-european-green-deal	n/a
27.	Working days of Eastern Partnership	German-Ukrainian Chamber of Commerce	December 2020	Membership fees	➢ Analysis ➢ Events	All DCFTA	Ukraine (no regional coverage)	https://ukraine.ahk.de/u/a/events/event-details/wirtschaftstage-der-oestlichen-partnerschaft-2020	n/a
28.	Intermodal transport between Germany and Ukraine: challenges and solutions	German-Ukrainian Chamber of Commerce	2020	Membership fees	➢ Analysis ➢ Events	Transport	Ukraine (no regional coverage)	https://ukraine.ahk.de/u/a/events/event-details/intermodal-transport-between-germany-and-ukraine-challenges-and-solutions	n/a
29.	The choice of suppliers and opportunities for sales in Ukrainian-German agricultural business	German-Ukrainian Chamber of Commerce	2020	Membership fees	➢ Analysis ➢ Events	Agriculture	Ukraine (no regional coverage)	https://ukraine.ahk.de/u/a/events/event-details/webinar-sourcing-and-selling-opportunities-in-german-ukrainian-agribusiness	n/a
30.	Economic region Bayern. Export and investment opportunities in Bayern	German-Ukrainian Chamber of Commerce	2020	Membership fees	➢ Analysis ➢ Events	All DCFTA	Ukraine (no regional coverage)	https://ukraine.ahk.de/u/a/events/event-details/webinar-ekonomichnii-region-bavarija-eksportni-ta-investiciini-mozhlivosti-v-bavariji	n/a
31.	Sales of Ukrainian products in the EU - opportunities and challenges (fresh fruits, vegetables, and natural ingredients)	German-Ukrainian Chamber of Commerce	2020	Membership fees	➢ Analysis ➢ Events	DCFTA; agriculture	Ukraine (no regional coverage)	https://ukraine.ahk.de/u/a/events/event-details/selling-ukrainian-products-to-europe-opportunities-and-challenges-fresh-fruits-vegetables-and-natural-ingredients	n/a
32.	The Internship Programme of German Business for Ukraine	German-Ukrainian Chamber of Commerce	2020	GIZ Germany, Ukrainian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, membership fees	➢ Events ➢ Capacity building ➢ Matchmaking	All DCFTA	Ukraine (no regional coverage)	https://ukraine.ahk.de/u/a/events/event-details/bewerbungsphase-fuer-praktika-2021-0105-15062020	n/a
33.	VII Ukrainian-German Forum for food	German-Ukrainian Chamber of Commerce	2019	Membership fees	➢ Analysis ➢ Events ➢ Matchmaking	Food industry	Ukraine (no regional coverage)	https://ukraine.ahk.de/u/a/events/event-details/7-ukrainisch-deutsches-food-forum	n/a

No	Project title	Implementing CSOs	Project duration	Donors	Activities	Topics	Regional coverage	Link	Budget
34.	VII Ukrainian-German Forum for food	German-Ukrainian Chamber of Commerce	2018	Membership fees	➢ Events ➢ Matchmaking	Food industry	Ukraine (no regional coverage)	https://ukraine.ahk.de/u/a/events/event-details/6-i-ukrajinsko-nimeckii-forum-kharchovikh-produktiv	n/a
35.	GIZ and Karazin Business School Competition for Clusters	GIZ Ukraine	2021	GIZ Germany, EU4Business	➢ Events ➢ Capacity building	IT, other industries	Ukraine (no regional coverage)	https://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/98833.html	n/a
36.	Consulting of Ukrainian companies considering energy effectiveness	GIZ Ukraine	2018	GIZ Germany	➢ Capacity building	All DCFTA	Ukraine (no regional coverage)	https://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/67389.html	n/a
37.	Competitiveness and internationalisation of SME	GIZ Ukraine	2020	GIZ Germany, EU4Business	➢ Capacity building	All DCFTA	Ukraine (no regional coverage)	https://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/92388.html	1 000 000 UAH
38.	German-Ukrainian Agro-Political Dialog	German-Ukrainian Agro-Political Dialog	2016-2021	Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture of Germany	➢ Analysis ➢ Events ➢ Capacity building	Agriculture	Ukraine (no regional coverage)	https://www.apd-ukraine.de/	2 190 000 EUR
39.	EU4Digital	NGO Agency of European Innovations	2019-2022	EU	➢ Analysis ➢ Capacity building	Digital market	Ukraine (no regional coverage)	https://eufordigital.eu/	n/a
40.	Adaptation of certain norms of the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement and raising awareness of SMEs about their implementation in terms of effective implementation of the food quality assurance system in Kharkiv and Vinnytsia regions	Kharkiv Regional Non-Governmental Organization "Association of Private Employers"	March 2019 - September 2019	European Union, International Renaissance Foundation	➢ Analysis ➢ Events	Food quality (HACCP norms)	Kharkiv and Vinnytsia region	https://www.civic-synergy.org.ua/grant-projects/adaptatsiya-okremyh-norm-ugody-pro-asotsiatsiyu-ukrayina-yes-ta-pidvyshennya-obiznanosti-msb-pro-yih-vykonnannya-v-chastvni-efektyvnogo-vprovadzhennya-sistem-zabezpechennya-yakosti-harchovyh-produkti/	n/a

No	Project title	Implementing CSOs	Project duration	Donors	Activities	Topics	Regional coverage	Link	Budget
41.	Using of European financial instruments for the development of the agro-industrial sector (SME) of Ukraine	Chernihiv City Non-Governmental Organization "Seversky Institute for Regional Studies"	November 2018 - June 2019	European Union, International Renaissance Foundation	➢ Analysis ➢ Events	Agro-industrial sector	Kharkiv, Rivne, Chernihiv, Chernivtsi, Mykolaiv	https://www.civic-synergy.org.ua/grant-projects/vykorystannya-vevropeiskyh-finansovyh-instrumentiv-dlya-rozvytku-agropromyslovogo-sektoru-msp-ukrayiny/	n/a
42.	Integration of Ukrainian SMEs into EU value chains within the Association Agreement	"Easy Business"	August 2017 - December 2018	European Union, International Renaissance Foundation	➢ Analysis ➢ Events	All DCFTA	Ukraine (no regional coverage)	https://www.civic-synergy.org.ua/grant-projects/integratsiya-ukravinskogo-msb-ulanstyugy-dodanoyi-vartosti-yes-v-mezhah-ugody-pro-asotsiatsiyu/	n/a
43.	Agritrade Ukraine	Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Ukraine	January 2019 - December 2021	Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture of Germany	➢ Analysis ➢ Events ➢ Matchmaking	Agro-industrial sector	Ukraine (no regional coverage)	https://ucci.org.ua/international-projects/agrotorgivlia-ukrayini	2 140 000 EUR
44.	East Invest - 3	Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Ukraine	January 2020 - December 2020	EU4Business, EuroChamber	➢ Analysis ➢ Events	Investment and trade environment in the agro-industrial sector	Ukraine (no regional coverage)	https://ucci.org.ua/international-projects/east-invest	60 000 EUR
45.	Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs	Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Ukraine	Regular basis (since 2018 as part of the COSME)	European Commission	➢ Capacity building ➢ Matchmaking	All DCFTA	Ukraine (no regional coverage)	https://ucci.org.ua/en/international-projects/programa-es-erazmus-dlia-molodikh-pidpriemstiv	1 100 USD for each participant
46.	Convergence Business Climate in the Eastern Partnership Countries with the Business Climate in the EU	The Georgian Association "Women in Business" (GAWB); Support for Economic Initiatives Public Union (SEI, Azerbaijan), European Business Association	April 2018 - December 2018	European Union	➢ Analysis	Business climate	Ukraine (no regional coverage)	https://eap-csf.eu/convergence-business-climate-in-the-eastern-partnership-countries-with-the-business-climate-in-the-eu/	n/a
47.	Small Business Act for Europe and DCFTA of Moldova, Georgia and Ukraine Using Experience of Latvia Overcoming Economic Crisis	Georgian Association "Women in Business", European Business Association (EBA), Business Union of Latvia	May 2016 - November 2016	European Union	➢ Analysis ➢ Events	All DCFTA	Ukraine (no regional coverage)	https://eap-csf.eu/small-business-act-for-europe-and-dcfta-of-moldova-georgia-and-ukraine-using-experience-of-latvia-overcoming-economic-crisis/	n/a

No	Project title	Implementing CSOs	Project duration	Donors	Activities	Topics	Regional coverage	Link	Budget
56.	Effective Business Associations - Sustainable Business - Strong Countries	Business Community Club	January 2020 - December 2020	USAID	➢ Events	Entrepreneurship	Ukraine (no regional coverage)	https://bisc.org.ua/portolio/klub-dilovoyh-ljudej-ukraina/iniciatyva-efektyvni-biznesobednannja-%E2%80%93-spromozhnyj-biznes-%E2%80%93-sylna-kraiina-20200113.html	n/a
57.	Business Information Support Center, Kyiv	Kyiv Chamber of Commerce and Industry	January 2017 - December 2020	EU4Business, EBRD	➢ Events ➢ Capacity building ➢ Matchmaking	Entrepreneurship	Kyiv and Cherkasy region	https://bisc.org.ua/portolio/kyivska-torgovopromyslova-palata/eu4business2017.html	n/a
58.	Competitiveness of small and medium enterprises (COSME) (European Enterprise network)	Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Ukraine	Since 2011 till now	European Union	➢ Capacity building ➢ Matchmaking	Entrepreneurship	Ukraine (no regional coverage)	https://ucci.org.ua/international-projects/ievropieis-kamierieza-pidpriemstv-european-enterprise-network-een	n/a
59.	Senior Exportin Service - Understanding Business	Lviv Chamber of Commerce and Industry	Since 2017 till now	Deutsche Gesellschaft fur Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH	➢ Events ➢ Capacity building	Entrepreneurship	Lviv region	https://lcci.com.ua/category/mentor-rozumity-biznes-procesy-pravylno/	n/a
60.	ECTI, Exchanges et Consultation Techniques Internationaux	Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Ukraine	n/a	Echanges et Consultation Techniques Internationaux	➢ Events	Entrepreneurship	Ukraine (no regional coverage)	https://ucci.org.ua/international-projects/sluzhba-starshikh-ekspertiv-ecti	n/a
61.	Consultations on strategy and marketing for small and medium-sized businesses in the framework of the initiative COVID-19 BUSINESS CLINICS of the project "EU4Business: competitiveness and internationalisation of SMEs"	Business Community Club	April 2021 - May 2021	European Union, German Government	➢ Events	Services, trade	Kyiv, Kyiv region, Ivano-Frankivsk region, Ternopil region, Chernivtsi region, Lviv region, Zakarpattia region	https://bc-club.org.ua/events/konsultaciji-zi-strategijji-ta-marketyngu20210412651.html	n/a
62.	Biz Camp for small and medium business	Ukrainian Center for Investment and Trade Promotion (ITFC)	October 2020-December 2020	Canadian-Ukrainian Trade and Investment Support Project (CUTIS)	➢ Analysis ➢ Events	Manufacture, services, trade	Chernihiv, Dnipro, Lutsk, Khmelnytsky, Donetsk, Kropyvnytskyi	https://sme.gov.ua/support_programs/biz-camp-dlya-malogo-ta-serednogo-biznesu/	n/a
63.	VTrade Fruits and Berries Initiative	Association "Berry of Ukraine"	n/a	USAID	➢ Events ➢ Capacity building ➢ Matchmaking	Manufacture, agriculture	Ukraine (no regional coverage)	https://sme.gov.ua/support_programs/initiatyva-vtrade-frukty-i-yagody-programa-usaid-konkurentospromozhnaya-ekonomika-ukrayiny-ta-asotsiatsiya-yagidnytstvo-ukrayiny/	n/a

No	Project title	Implementing CSOs	Project duration	Donors	Activities	Topics	Regional coverage	Link	Budget
64.	Eastern Partnership: Willingness to Trade - EU4Business Initiative	Association "Berry of Ukraine"	October 2021	European Union	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Analysis ➢ Events ➢ Capacity building ➢ Matchmaking 	Manufacture, agriculture	Ukraine (no regional coverage)	https://uaberries.com/projects/skhidne-partnerstvo-hotovnist-do-torhivli-initiatyva-eu4business/proekt-itc-ready-to-trade-ta-asotsatsiya-vagidnitstvo-ukrajini-ogoloshuyut-pro-pochatok-vidboru-uchasnikiv-na-anuga-2021	n/a
65.	Grow up: Agro	Ukrainian Business & Trade Association	June 2021	USAID	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Events ➢ Capacity building ➢ Matchmaking 	Agro-industrial sector	Dnipropetrovsk, Zaporizhzhya, Mykolaiv, Odesa, Poltava, Kharkiv, Kherson, Cherkasy regions	https://ubta.com.ua/en/grow-up-agro	n/a
66.	Strengthening Small and Medium Enterprises Business Membership Organization Project	Ukrainian Association of Furniture Manufacturers	2016-2017	UNDP, State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (Swiss Confederation)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Events 	Manufacture, business development	Ukraine (no regional coverage)	https://uafm.com.ua/en/pr-oon/proekt-zmitsnenna-biznes-ob-vednan-malogo-ta-serednogo-biznesu/	n/a
67.	Linking Ukrainian SMEs in the Fruits and Vegetables Sector to the Global and Domestic Markets and Value Chains	Kherson Chamber of Commerce and Industry	2016-2020 (first phase) 2021-2024 (second phase)	Government of Sweden	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Events ➢ Capacity building ➢ Matchmaking 	Agriculture	Kherson, Odesa, Mykolaiv, Zaporizhzhia, Dnipro, Vinnytsia	http://tradeproject.com.ua/	n/a

Annex 4. Civil Society Mapping – Moldova

Project title	Implementing CSO	Project duration	Donors	Activities	Topics	Regional coverage	Link	Budget
Raising the awareness of the private sector about the DCFTA and Foreign Trade with the EU market	European Business Association	2015 - 2016	USAID FHI 360 East Europe Foundation	➢ Lobby and advocacy ➢ Technical / practical seminars ➢ DCFTA Conference	The aim of the project was to support the private sector by providing lobbying, advocacy services and increasing entrepreneurial capacity, in the context of DCFTA implementation.	Nationwide	https://eba.md/rom/page/s/proiectul-usaid-fhi-eef	N/A
Competitive Agriculture in Moldova Project (MAC-P), Component II - Increasing the access potential to the EU market	European Business Association (a component of the project)	2015 - 2016	World Bank MAC-P	➢ Organizing practical seminars with international specialists ➢ Support for 15 agricultural cooperatives in the development of basic marketing tools	The aim of the project was to develop and increase the trade and marketing capacities of cooperatives, in order to facilitate exports to the EU market.	Nationwide	https://eba.md/rom/page/s/proiectul-mac-p	N/A
Development of the Strategy for Attracting Investments and Promoting Exports 2016-2020, within the Competitiveness Enhancement Project II	Expert-Grup	2016-2020	World Bank	➢ Evaluation of the previous strategy ➢ Development of a new strategy ➢ Extensive consultations with relevant stakeholders	Development of a new Strategy for Attracting Investments and Export Promotion for 2016-2020 and development of the action plan for the implementation of the Strategy	Nationwide	https://www.expert-grup.org.ro/activitate/proiecte/item/1169-strategie-investitiile-exporturi&category=6	N/A
Understanding of the Association Agreement and DCFTA between the EU and Ukraine, Georgia and the Republic of Moldova	Expert Grup (for the Republic of Moldova)	2015-2018	Swedish Agency for International Cooperation and Development	➢ Elaboration of a comprehensive Handbook, which explained in an easy-to-understand way, and in clear terms, the legal commitments made, as well as the implementation challenges that may arise for the public and private sectors. ➢ Development of "hot topics" related to EU Agreements with Moldova, Georgia and Ukraine.	The aim of the project was to investigate issues related to the legal, political and economic implications of the EU-Moldova Association Agreements and DCFTA, Ukraine and Georgia.	Nationwide	https://www.expert-grup.org.ro/activitate/proiecte/item/1390-intelegerarea-acordului-de-asoicare-si-a-zlsac-dintre-ue-%C8%99-ucraina-georgia-si-republica-moldova&category=6	N/A
Technical assistance to support the economic growth and stability of the Republic of Moldova	Expert-Grup	2015-2019	Good Governance Fund	➢ Strengthening the rule of law, reforming the justice sector and democratic accountability; ➢ Liberalization and modernization of key sectors, for example, the banking and energy sectors.; ➢ Improving the business environment, reforming tax systems, and reducing bureaucracy; ➢ Supporting reforms in the management of public finances and anti-corruption measures; and ➢ Independent media support.	Technical assistance to support Moldova in becoming more resilient to external and internal shocks, both political and economic, and further supporting economic growth and stability.	Nationwide	https://www.expert-grup.org.ro/activitate/proiecte/item/1384-asistenta-tehnica-pentru-sustinerea-cresterii-economice-si-stabilitatii-republicii-moldova&category=6	N/A
Turning Europeanisation in Moldova from inspirational to operational through closer interactions between independent policy research actors in Moldova and European Union	Expert-Grup	2017-2019	Open Society Foundation	➢ Development of high quality research ➢ Advocacy efforts at domestic and EU level for policy measures that would increase the speed of Moldova's Europeanization ➢ Increase the level of information of the population in Moldova about the opportunities and benefits of the Europeanization	Increase the speed, effectiveness and inclusiveness of Europeanization processes in Moldova and, implicitly, stimulate the level of information, understanding and interest of the population in this process, by means of higher quality and reliability of policy research.	Nationwide	https://www.expert-grup.org/en/activitate/proiecte/item/1696-transformarea-europenizarii-din-proces-inspirational-in-operational-prin-intensificarea-intre-centrele-de-analiza?category=6	N/A

Project title	Implementing CSO	Project duration	Donors	Activities	Topics	Regional coverage	Link	Budget
DCFTA/Business Climate Update	European Business Association (a component of the project)	2017-2018	EU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Publication of analytical documents ➢ Analysis of the provisions of EU-Moldova DCFTA Association Agreement 	The aim of the project is to identify and analyze key issues affecting the investment climate and the business environment in the Republic of Moldova. EBA Moldova developed an analysis of the latest data on economic and trade development, which included an assessment of the reforms implemented from the perspective of representatives of the European business environment (investors), according to the provisions of the EU-Moldova / DCFTA Association Agreement	Nationwide	https://eba.md/rom/pages/unionea-europena---dcftabusiness-climate-update	N/A
Visibility and Communication for actions related to AA / DCFTA implementation in Moldova	Ecorys UK Aqa Event and project management	2017-2019	EU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Design and implement several communication campaigns for specific target audiences promoting AA / DCFTA benefits and deliver useful information to DCFTA main actors 	The aim of the project is increasing the awareness and understanding of the benefits of the AA / DCFTA.	Nationwide with emphasis on enterprises, exporting SMEs and entrepreneurs	http://dcfta.md/the-eu-funded-project-visibility-and-communication-for-aa-dcfta-is-being-finalized-through-an-international-conference	EUR 177,000
Strengthening Moldova's Policy and Business Environment Agenda	European Business Association (a component of the project)	7 months (2018-2019)	GIZ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Development of position papers ➢ practical / technical workshops for employees of automotive companies ➢ meetings with decision makers from the Republic of Moldova and the European Commission 	Strengthening the Policy and Business Environment Agenda, as well as the capabilities of Moldovan automotive companies.	Nationwide	https://eba.md/rom/pages/automotive-sector---giz-moldova-donor	N/A
Promoting civil society and inter-ethnic dialogue in the Republic of Moldova in the context of the Eu association process	Institute for European Policies and Reforms	2018-2019	German Federal Foreign Office	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ A series of dialogue workshops on the local and regional level to promote the civil society and inter-ethnic dialogue in the Republic of Moldova 	Increase knowledge about the Role of the EU Association Agreement for Moldova's Development	Soroca, Taraclia, Cormat	http://ipre.md/2019/10/23/promoting-civil-society-and-inter-ethnic-dialogue-in-the-republic-of-moldova-in-the-context-of-the-eu-association-process_civid/?lang=en	8,000 EUR
Support to Quality Infrastructure Framework within the DCFTA context in the Republic of Moldova	European Business Association	9 months (2019-2020)	EU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Coaching and marketing expertise ➢ Identifying new international partners ➢ Elaboration of business plans ➢ Business expansion and development ➢ Development of web pages ➢ Elaboration of video spots 	Provision of coaches to provide mentoring to selected companies	16 regional companies from the North, Center and South of the Republic of Moldova	https://eba.md/rom/pages/eu-project-support-to-quality-infrastructure-framework-within-the-dcfta-context-in-the-rm-assignment-provision-of-coaches-to-provide-mentoring-to-selected-companies	Grants offered to selected companies of MDL 351,000 (approx. EUR 16,700)
Civil society contributes to the economic and social development of the Republic of Moldova	European Business Association (a component of the project)	2018-2020	EU Swedish Agency for International Cooperation and Development East Europe Foundation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Practical support for companies with export potential ➢ Series of trainings to selected companies in the region, to ensure product quality, access to finance and international representation ➢ Matchmaking events in EU countries; ➢ Evaluation of DCFTA implementation ➢ Lobbying and advocacy activities 	The aim of the project is to support the business and social environment in the regions of Moldova, by creating Regional Business Hubs and developing the capacities of SMEs through individual training and coaching.	Nationwide	https://eba.md/rom/pages/societatea-civila-contribuie-la dezvoltarea-economica-i-sociala-din-republica-moldova	N/A
We and EU - EU perception and	Institute for European	2019-2020	German Federal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Opening of communication channels to those parts of the 	The overall objective of the project is to make a substantial contribution to overcoming the	Leova, Edinet, UTA Gagauzia	http://ipre.md/wp-content/uploads/2020/0	8,000 EUR

Project title	Implementing CSO	Project duration	Donors	Activities	Topics	Regional coverage	Link	Budget
realities in Moldova	Policies and Reforms		Foreign Office	<p>population far removed from the EU with the help of local and media communication formats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Provision of information on the advantages of the Association Agreement and the use of EU funding to young Moldovans and representatives of ethnic groups that tend to be critical of the EU ➢ Communication of success stories of the support provided by the EU and its member states to the public through media preparation (videos) and to promote civil society exchange (with Germany) on EU communication. ➢ 	<p>social dividing lines of the EU rapprochement process in Moldova by promoting informed intra-societal dialogue on the values and norms underlying the Association Agreement and the concrete benefits of modernizing Moldova in the course of the EU rapprochement process.</p>		8/IPRE-Annual-Report-2019_final_ENG.pdf	
Monitoring the EU-Moldova Association Agreement	Institute for European Policies and Reforms	2019 - to present	KAS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Monitoring the implementation of the EU-Moldova Association Agreement; ➢ Publication and presentation of the Shadow Report on AA implementation; ➢ Raising awareness among citizens and stakeholders about the importance of implementing the EU- Moldova Association Agreement 	<p>General Objective of the project is to carry out independent monitoring and evaluation of the EU-Moldova Association Agreement.</p>	Nationwide	http://ipre.md/2019/12/31/monitorizarea-acordului-de-asociere-ue-moldova-2019/?lang=en	20.000 (yearly)
Development of the economic mechanism for the implementation of the extended responsibility of the producer	European Business Association	4 months (2020)	GIZ Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Analysis of best practices from EU countries, as well as from other countries, ➢ Development of legal changes to allow the mechanism of reimbursement of pollution tax; ➢ A series of technical meetings 	<p>General presentation of the key issues voiced by the enterprises of the Republic of Moldova regarding the existing taxation mechanism</p>	Nationwide	https://eba.md/rom/page/s/tema-giz-dezvoltarea-mecanismului-economic-pentru-implementarea-responsabilitatii-extinse-a-producatorului	N/A
Development of export capacities on the banks of the Dniester (AdTrade)	USAID Competitive ness Project Eastern European Foundation	2019-2022	Swedish Agency for International Cooperation and Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Support in developing export capacities and facilitating trade in European markets. ➢ Economic empowerment of women and reduce inequalities by encouraging greater participation of women and vulnerable groups. ➢ Development of B2B contacts, business development and consulting services, as well as facilitating direct access to markets. 	<p>The project facilitates cross-border cooperation and expands the access of enterprises in the Transnistrian region (especially micro, small and medium-sized enterprises - SMEs) to export promotion mechanisms available on the right bank.</p>	Republic of Moldova, including Transnistria	www.md.undp.org/content/moldova/ro/home/project/advanced-cross-river-capacities-for-trade.html	USD 2,069,679

Project title	Implementing CSO	Project duration	Donors	Activities	Topics	Regional coverage	Link	Budget
Transparency and Compliance for SMEs	Alliance for Small and Medium Enterprises	2020 to present	Center for International Private Enterprise	➢ Meeting with entrepreneurs to identify constraints and development opportunities for SMEs	To create better conditions for SMEs for transparency and compliance by bringing together various efforts in anti-corruption and transparency that will support the economic sector.	Nationwide		N/A
Support for structured political dialogue, coordination of the implementation of the Association Agreement and improvement of the legal approximation process	Human Dynamics Public Sector Consulting	2020-2025	EU	➢ Improvement of the structured political dialogue by the involvement of civil society through the existing mechanisms. ➢ Improved policy-making mechanisms for adequate budgeting of strategy papers as well as action plans to ensure feasibility; ➢ Provision of technical expertise in all sectors to improve the legal approximation process; ➢ Development of IT systems supporting the implementation of the Association Agreement	The broader objective of the project is to increase the capacity of the Government of the Republic of Moldova and other key national institutions in implementing the EU-Moldova Association Agenda.	Nationwide	http://amp.gov.md/aim/viewActivityPreview.do?public=true~pageId=2~activityId=15984~language=ro	EUR 4,900,00
Civil society contributes to inclusive and sustainable economic development in the Republic of Moldova	Eastern European Foundation European Business Association Contact Center	2021 - 2024 (40 months)	EU Swedish Agency for International Cooperation and Development	➢ 43 grants to Civil Society Organizations: Business Support Centers Consortia of Civil Society Organizations, CSO platforms in the field of social entrepreneurship and business environment, Entrepreneurship Funds for Youth and Social Enterprises	Project aims to contribute to the economic development of the Republic of Moldova through the active involvement of civil society and other stakeholders, taking into account the provisions of the Association Agreement with the European Union, which includes the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area.	Nationwide	https://www.eef.md/index.php?page=news&id=1026&rid=1600&l=ro	EUR 2,100,00
Opportunities through Technologies and Innovation in Moldova	Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation Alliance for Small and Medium Enterprises	2020 to present	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation	➢ Meeting with entrepreneurs to identify constraints and development opportunities for SMEs	Project that aims to stimulate selected market systems in Moldova in order to generate better economic opportunities in a sustained way.	The beneficiaries are women and men, particularly those from excluded groups (youth, returning migrants, ethnic minorities) and those living outside the capital Chisinau.	https://optimproject.md/en/about/	N/A
Support to the business communities on the both banks of Nistru affected by the economic impact of coronavirus (COVID-19)	Chamber of Commerce and Industry	2021 to present	Swedish Government and UNDP	Trainings, seminar and meetings with the entrepreneurs for enhancing their operational capacity and resilience against COVID-19 pandemic.	Support companies and SMEs to avoid the negative impact and consequences of COVID-19 pandemic	The beneficiaries are the entrepreneurs from the both banks of Nistru river, including the Transnistrian region	https://chamber.md/proiectul-sprinirea-comunitatii-de-affaceri-de-pe-ambele-maluri-ale-nistrului-affectate-de-impactul-economic-al-coronavirusului-covid-19/	N/A
Enhancing the export capacities of the Moldovan companies from the high value agricultural for accessing new sales markets	Chamber of Commerce and Industry	2021 to present	USAID	Training programs, thematic master-classes, coaching services, professionalization of Moldova- Austria managers, study visit	Development of a high-performing agricultural sector in the Republic of Moldova, by increasing the theoretical knowledge, capacities and practical skills of the staff involved in marketing and export activities of high value-added finished products.	Business owners, directors and managers, export managers of high value-added (AVI) agri-food enterprises	https://chamber.md/proiectul-sporirea-capacitatilor-de-export-ale-companiilor-moldovenesti-din-sectorul-agroalimentar-de-inalta-valoare-pentru-a-accesa-nopitele-de-desfacere/	N/A
Support for the Quality Infrastructure Framework in the context of DCFTA in the Republic of Moldova	Chamber of Commerce and Industry	2017 to 2020	EU4Business	Local and national events, training and support for the business companies	To support the Republic of Moldova in strengthening the framework of the country's quality infrastructure in the context of the DCFTA	Governemnt authorities, SMEs, regulatory agencies	https://chamber.md/suprat-pentru-cadrul-infrastructuri-calitatii-in-contextul-dcfta-in-republica-moldova/	N/A

