

# Foreign Policy Association

## Annual Report 2014

Reporting period January – December 2014

### **1. Implementation of projects and achievement of planned objectives**

During the current reporting period, Foreign Policy Association has implemented 5 core projects with a cumulative funding envelope of 194,000 USD. The projects have been implemented with the support of Think Tank Fund of the Open Society Foundations, Black Sea Trust for Regional Cooperation of the German Marshall Fund of the United States, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung Moldova, EU Delegation, Federal Office OF Foreign Affairs of Germany, Embassy of Finland to Moldova and the East European Foundation Moldova.

#### **1.1. Project: European integration and Foreign Policy Dialogues**

The project has been implemented with the support of the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung Moldova. Its main goal is to bring Moldovan foreign policy issues closer to the citizens of Moldova, by making information more accessible to them. Therefore, APE has institutionalized a permanent informational and debating platform on European integration and foreign policy issues that gives space and explores the relevant and competent opinions – of the officials, politicians, businessmen, diplomats, local and international experts. The main beneficiaries of the project are Moldovan NGOs, journalists, foreign policy experts, international relations professors, political parties, politicians, parliamentarians, governmental officials, diplomats and of course ordinary people. During the reporting period, APE has undertaken following activities:

- 9 European Integration & Foreign Policy radio programs aired on national radio channels Radio Vocea Basarabiei and Radio Moldova;
- 9 European Integration & Foreign Policy Newsletters were drafted and published;
- 40 notorious Moldovan and European officials, politicians, diplomats and civil society experts have been interviewed on Moldova's European integration reforms and foreign policy issues;
- 3 policy reports on renewable energy, anti-corruption and Eastern partnership's prospects have been drafted.

#### **1.2. Strengthening civil society partnership between both banks of Nistru River through implementing joint research projects: January – May 2014**

The project was implemented with the assistance of the Black Sea Trust for Regional Cooperation of the German Marshall Fund of the United States. Its key objective was to increase the relevance of the civil society as a partner for Moldovan authorities and Transnistrian administration in promoting practical sector cooperation. In framework of this project APE organized the International Conference entitled "Setting up the Single/Common Economic Area between the two banks of the Nistru River: challenges and opportunities". The conference was attended by 60 Moldovan, Russian, Ukrainian and EU officials, as well as think tanks and civil society experts from EU, Moldova and Transnistrian region. The main purpose of the event is to start wide discussions in the society regarding the necessity and opportunities of a single/common economic area for the resolution of the most pressing socio-economic problems on both banks, facilitating in this way the long-lasting political settlement of the Transnistrian conflict.

#### **1.3. Moldova realities check – Study visit to Moldova & Transnistrian region for the EU and US experts: January - May 2014**

The project was implemented with the assistance of the Black Sea Trust for Regional Cooperation of the German Marshall Fund of the United States. The project's aim was to support

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Moldova's pro-European integration agenda defined by three key objectives: political association, economic integration and visa liberalization with the UE. APE has published the Reality Check Report "Is Moldova's European Integration irreversible?" which was publicly presented on the occasion of the 3<sup>rd</sup> EU-Moldova Forum in Balti, which took place on 19-20 June 2014.

### **1.4. "3<sup>rd</sup> EU – Moldova Forum: debating Moldova's European integration progresses, challenges and prospects, Balti (Moldova), 19-20 June 2014".**

The project was implemented with the assistance of the Black Sea Trust for Regional Cooperation of the German Marshall Fund of the United States and Foreign Affairs Office of Germany. The main objective of the Forum was to take stock of Moldova's achievements and challenges in implementing its European integration reform agenda in the run-up of signing the Association Agreement with the EU that would take place in Brussels, on 27 June 2014 [https://www.facebook.com/EU.Moldova.Forum?ref\\_type=bookmark](https://www.facebook.com/EU.Moldova.Forum?ref_type=bookmark). The Forum was organized by APE in partnership with the Deutsch-Moldauisches Forum, Institute of Eastern Studies (ISW) from Poland and Romanian Center for European Policies (CRPE). It was attended by over 150 participants from Moldova, Germany, Poland, Spain, France, Romania, Slovakia, Russia, etc.. The special guests of the Forum were Mr. Gerd Muller, Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation of Germany, Mr. Iurie Leanca, Prime-minister of Moldova, and Mr. Igor Corman, Speaker of the Parliament of Moldova. In the framework of the Forum, Prime-minister Iurie Leanca and Minister Gerd Muller signed an Assistance Cooperation Agreement for supporting social infrastructural projects in Moldova with the budget of 17 millions EUR.

### **1.5. Enhancing the role of local authorities, regional civil society and mass-media in implementing the Law on Ensuring Equality (Anti-discrimination Law): July 2014 – June 2015.**

The project has been implemented with the assistance of the Embassy of Finland to the Republic of Moldova. The key goal of the project is to raise the awareness of the local authorities and journalists about their role in preventing and combating all forms of discrimination, as well as to develop anti-discrimination capacities of the regional and local level. The project is implemented in partnership with the National Council for preventing and combating discrimination and ensuring equality.

In order to achieve the project objectives the Foreign Policy Association (APE) will undertake the following activities:

- 20 (one day) anti-discrimination trainings for local authorities and journalists in 20 regional centers (cities) of Moldova. The participants (around 40 people) will be informed about the main purpose of the Law on Ensuring Equality, will be familiarized with the main discrimination notions and forms, will learn how to detect, report and combat discrimination phenomena, will be introduced to their key responsibilities in the field of preventing and combating discrimination;
- Publishing 10 anti-discrimination articles in local mass-media;
- Publishing Final Public Report "Anti-discrimination Recommendations addressed to local authorities".

During the reporting period APE has organized 10 anti-discrimination trainings in 10 regional centers of Moldova. The trainings were attended by 400 representatives of regional and local authorities, as well as mass-media.

### **1.6. Strengthening APE institutional capacities of the APE: May 2014 – February 2015.**

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The project has been implemented with the assistance of the East European Foundation Moldova. The key goal is to assist APE to develop its analytical and communication capacities. During the reporting period, APE undertook the following activities:

- Three online talk-shows programs “Moldova & World”:
  1. Successes and failures of the Eastern Partnership, <http://unimedia.info/stiri/video-emisiunea-moldova-si-lumea-72677.html>.
  2. Regional development of the Country, <http://unimedia.info/stiri/video-emisiunea-moldova-si-lumea-dezvoltarea-regionala-a-tarii-73705.html>.
  3. Ukrainian Crises and the risks for Moldova, <http://unimedia.info/stiri/video-emisiunea-moldova-si-lumea-criza-din-ucraina-si-riscurile-pentru-moldova-74243.html>.
  
- Three Regional Round Tables on Moldova’s European Integration:
  1. Round Table on Moldova’s European Integration in Comrat, 20.02.2014.
  2. Round Table on Moldova’s European Integration in Cahul, 26.02.2014
  3. Round Table on Moldova’s European Integration in Balti 01.04.2014.
  
- APE Policy Papers:
  1. APE Recommendation for Combating Discrimination in 2014.
  2. APE Recommendation for Reforming the General Prosecutor’s office of the Republic of Moldova in 2014.
  3. APE Recommendation for Reforming the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Moldova in 2014.
  4. APE Recommendations for Moldova’s Reintegration Policy in 2014.
  5. Viorel Chivriga, “The Priorities and Challenges in the process of DCFTA implementation in the Republic of Moldova”, October 2014, <http://www.ape.md/libview.php?l=ro&idc=152&id=2143> ;
  6. Vadim Ceban, “Developing the renewable energy in the Republic of Moldova: realities, capacities, options, perspectives”, October 2014, [file:///D:/Users/Victoria/Downloads/2144156\\_md\\_aneza\\_nr\\_2\\_vad.pdf](file:///D:/Users/Victoria/Downloads/2144156_md_aneza_nr_2_vad.pdf) ;
  7. Lina Grau and Liliana Barbarosie, “The state of the Press – between editorial independence and financial dependence”, <http://www.ape.md/libview.php?l=ro&idc=152&id=2134>;
  8. Vitalie Rapcea, “Defining the Republic of Moldova – Transnistrian Region Single/Common Economic Area, by analyzing the existing models”, August 2014, <http://www.ape.md/lib.php?l=ro&idc=152>;
  
- APE Press Clubs:
  1. The Reintegration Policy of the Republic of Moldova: Vision, Strategy, Means, 03.01.2014. <http://www.ipn.md/ro/politica/59266>; <http://www.ipn.md/ro/politica/59268>; <http://www.ipn.md/ro/politica/59272>.
  2. Current progresses and challenges faced during the process of reforming the Ministry of Interiors of the Republic of Moldova, 27.02.2014. / <http://www.ipn.md/ro/societate/60338>; <http://www.ipn.md/ro/societate/60332>.
  3. Developing the renewable energy in the Republic of Moldova: realities, capacities, options, perspectives, 17.10.2014, Info-Prim Neo.
  4. The state of the Press – between editorial independence and financial dependence, 02.09.2014, Info-Prim Neo;

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5. DCFTA Implementation: challenges and opportunities, 15.09.2014, Info-Prim Neo;
6. Defining the Republic of Moldova – Transnistrian Region Single/Common Economic Area, by analyzing the existing models, 12.08.2014, Info-Prim Neo.

### **1.7. International Conference on “Promoting Confidence Building Measures and Sector Cooperation between both Banks of Nistru River”, Chisinau, 26<sup>th</sup> September 2014.**

The event was organized with the assistance of the EU Delegation in the framework of the EU technical assistance program designed to support Transnistrian settlement. The overall goal was to organize a conference in order to assist Moldovan authorities, civil society organizations, various Working group participants, international organizations and development donors to take stock of the achieved progress in implementing CBMs between both banks of Nistru River, as well as to search for new ideas for promoting CBMs and practical cooperation in the areas of economy, trade, regional development, energy, transport and telecommunication.

The international conference was attended by 100 participants representing a wide range of stakeholders including civil society organizations and business community from the both banks of the Nistru River, European think tanks, international development organizations, Moldovan institutions. The event was attended by 15 Transnistrian civil society representatives and its discussions and conclusions have been broadcasted by all national TV and Radio channels.

Agenda of the international conference included the following topics:

- The objectives, actions and results of the EU Technical Assistance Program to support Transnistrian Settlement;
- Presentation of the National Survey on Transnistrian Settlement;
- Taking stock of the Confidence Building Measures implemented between both banks of Nistru River;
- Developing Practical Cooperation between both banks of Nistru River;
- Building a Common Economic Space between both banks of Nistru River.

### **1.8. Moldova reality check – Study visit to Moldova & Transnistrian region for the EU and US experts: November 2014.**

The project was implemented with the assistance of the Black Sea Trust for Regional Cooperation of the German Marshall Fund for Regional Cooperation. The key aim of the project was to increase the awareness the EU and US experts about Moldova’s democratic, political, economic and social realities and challenges on the eve of crucial parliamentary elections set on 30 November 2014.

In the period November 28th – December 2nd, the Foreign Policy Association (APE) and the German Marshall Fund of the United States organized a fact-finding mission in the Republic of Moldova and its Gagauz Autonomy (Gagauz-Yeri) for a group of European journalists officials that represent “The Economist”, “Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung”, “German Marshall Fund”, Chancellery Office of the German Government, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Germany, European External Action Service of the EU and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Latvia. The members of the mission have learned from the first sources about the latest internal political evolutions and reform processes in the Republic of Moldova and its Gagauz Autonomy (Gagauz-Yeri), as well as about the Transnistrian political settlement challenges and prospects in the context of upcoming parliamentary elections in Moldova. They met the top political leaders from Chisinau and Comrat (Gagauz Autonomy), as well as local experts and EU diplomats stationed in Chisinau. Moreover, the members of the delegation participated as elections

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observers in Gagauz Autonomy. The journalists from The Economist and Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung published 4 articles on the Moldova's elections.

### 2. Strategic development of the organization

1. APE has applied the Action Plan for the period 2013 – 2015, focusing its activities on the following key objectives:
  - Promoting European integration of Moldova;
  - Facilitating Transnistrian resolution and strengthening Moldova's security;
  - Developing APE Think-Tank capacities;
  - Implementing APE Communication Strategy.
2. APE has implemented the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of the of the research assistance program supported by the East European Foundation of Moldova.
3. APE has extended its outreach in 12 Moldova's regions: Balti, Cahul, Comrat, Ocnita, Briceni, Edinet, Drochia, Falesti, Soroca, Anenii Noi, Hincesti, Straseni.
4. APE has extended its experts pool with 6 new experts through research outsourcing.
5. APE has strengthened its institutional partnerships with the Deutsch-Moldauisches Forum from Berlin, Institute of Eastern Studies (ISW) from Warsaw and Romanian Center for European Policies (CRPE) from Bucharest.
6. APE has initiated an institutional partnership with the National Council for preventing and eliminating discrimination, and ensuring equality. Moreover, APE is in the process of setting up a research partnership with the ECFR London.

### 3. Future plans and challenges

During the next six month, APE will continue to focus its activity on the following key objectives:

1. Supporting European Integration of the Republic of Moldova:
  - Assisting governmental institutions in achieving Moldova's European integration goals through constructive monitoring, expertise input and project partnerships;
  - Increasing the awareness of Moldovan society on the European integration domestic and external challenges through constant and unbiased information on the way reform agenda agreed with the EU is implemented.
2. Facilitate the Transnistrian conflict settlement:
  - Promoting confidence building between Republic of Moldova and its Transnistrian separatist region at all levels: civil society, business community, local and central administrations;
  - Facilitating political settlement through joint analytical and research inputs;
  - Increasing the role of Civil Societies in promoting confidence building measures in the areas of "frozen conflicts" of the Eastern Partnership.
3. Strengthening the role of local authorities in implementing the Law on Ensuring Equality (Anti-discrimination Law):

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- Raise the awareness of the local authorities and journalists about their role in preventing and combating all forms of discrimination;
- Increase local authorities' understanding on the need to change their behavior and work practices in accordance with the anti-discrimination requirements set by the Law on Ensuring Equality;
- Develop anti-discrimination capacities of the local authorities and the local mass-media.

In order to achieve the abovementioned, APE will undertake the following actions in the coming 6 months:

- APE will publish 7 Policy Briefs on the domestic reforms issues, regional security and Moldova's European integration policy;
- Provide analytical support for the Office of Reintegration of Moldova;
- Organize European integration Round Tables in regional centers with participation of renowned public and political figures;
- Broadcast Radio Program "European Integration and Foreign Policy Debates" on the Radio Voice of Bessarabia and Public Radio Moldova 1;
- Organizing 10 (one day) anti-discrimination trainings for local authorities and journalists in 10 regional centers (cities) of Moldova. The participants (around 40 people) will be informed about the main purpose of the Law on Ensuring Equality, will be familiarized with the main discrimination notions and forms, will learn how to detect, report and combat discrimination phenomena, will be introduced to their key responsibilities in the field of preventing and combating discrimination;
- Organize a Conference on National Security Challenges;
- Publishing 10 anti-discrimination articles in local mass-media;
- Publishing Final Public Report "Anti-discrimination Recommendations addressed to local authorities".

The key APE's challenges/priorities for the next period would be to:

1. Initiating the strategic planning for the next 2 years period 2016 – 2017;
2. Organize the APE General Assembly;
3. Establish a research partnership with the European Council on Foreign Relations (ECFR) London. Currently, we are in the process of identifying necessary resources;
4. Drafting new projects;
5. Identify new talented associate researchers from academic community.