

APE Report
Organizational Development Support
Think Tank Fund
Reporting period April 2018 – May 2019

1. Implementation of projects and achievement of planned objectives

During the current reporting period, Foreign Policy Association is implementing 4 core projects with a cumulative funding envelope of \$ 108,963 USD (total project budget). The projects are being implemented with the support of the Foundation Open Society Institute (FOSI), German Marshall Fund (GMF), Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES), Austrian Development Agency (ADA), Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS) and the European Union (EU). The present amount represents the total cost of the projects and not necessarily the spending during the April 2018 – May 2019 period.

APE has focused its main activities on the following priorities:

- Promoting European association agenda of the Republic of Moldova;
- Promoting human rights values focusing on antidiscrimination and the gender aspect;
- Facilitating Transnistrian resolution and strengthening Moldova's security sector;
- Monitoring of the Security Sector Reform;
- Developing APE Think-Tank capacities.

1.1. Project: "Grass roots Civil Society Development Facility in the Republic of Moldova (2019-2021)" / EU, KAS

The project aims to contribute to the development of civic engagement and of grass roots civil society from different Moldovan regions actively involved in policy and decision making which promotes and monitors transparency and accountability of public institutions, including in the implementation of the EU-Moldova Association Agreement. The project is implemented in partnership with the other three NGOs, namely, ADEPT, Expert- Group and Pro-Europa Centre from Comrat, under the coordination of a core project team, and is financially supported by the European Union and Konrad Adenauer Stiftung Foundation. The total amount of the project is 3 mln EURO.

Each of the partners involved are responsible for one of the Moldovan development regions. In particular, Foreign Policy Association will coordinate project activities in the Central part of the Republic of Moldova including the Transnistrian region (*at the moment of writing the report, APE together with the Project team are negotiating with the Government Bureau for reintegration policy on involving the CSOs from the Tranistrian region*).

During the reporting period, APE undertook the following activities:

- ✓ *Conducted 3 info sessions* for sub-grantees in the Central part of Moldova, in Orhei and Anenii Noi cities, including in Chisinau.

Must be done the following activities:

- ✓ Conducting mentoring and coaching session for sub-grantees in the Central and Transnistrian region;
- ✓ Grass-roots CSOs Forums – organization of *3 networking forums*.

1.2. Project: “Local, National and Regional Strategies to improve the Implementation of UNSCR 1325 in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine”/ ADA

The project aimed to mobilize local, national, regional and global actors to support UNSCR 1325, 1820 and women in peace and security, the project was financially supported by the Austrian Development Agency. The project was implemented by the Global Network of Women Peacebuilders in partnership with local organizations: Foreign Policy Association of Moldova and Gender Centre. The projects activities contribute foresee the development and implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 Action Plan by involving national actors (local and central public authorities) and representative of civil society in various activities ranging from research to raising awareness, capacity building and advocacy.

During the reporting period, APE undertook the following activities:

- ✓ Mapping and analysis of peacebuilding initiatives in Moldova;
- ✓ Drafting of country-specific Localization module and actual Localization of UNSCR 1325 and 1820 workshops in UTA Gagauzia, Cahul and Ungheni provinces;
- ✓ Drafting of country specific National Action Plan (NAP) module and actual NAP workshop in Moldova;
- ✓ Drafting of country-specific module and actual media workshop on UNSCR 1325 and the supporting WPS resolution in Moldova, which took place during the period of 15-17 August 2019, in Vadul lui Voda city, bringing mass-media representative from the entire territory of Moldova including from the Transnistrian region;
- ✓ Created and officially launched on 25th of April 2019, the online Facebook platform (@FemeiaDeAziPaceaDeMaine/<https://www.facebook.com/FemeiaDeAziPaceaDeMaine/>): “Femeia de azi Pacea de mâine! Dialog-Siguranță-Progres” (Woman of Today, Peace of Tomorrow! Dialogue, Safety, Progress) dedicated to women, peace and security agenda.

1.3. Project: “European integration and Foreign Policy Dialogues / Annual Moldovan European Integration Debate Forum”/FES

The project was 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 were 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 undertook the following activities:

- ✓ *Organized the 6th Annual Moldovan European Integration Debate Forum, on 20 of November, 2018.* The main purpose of the Moldovan European Integration Debate Forum is to provide a platform for comprehensive discussions and debates on the most critical European integration challenges of the country with a view to assisting the Republic of Moldova in progressing on the European integration path and the implementation of the Association Agreement with the EU.

- ✓ *Developed 13 newsletters “Synthesis and Foreign Policy Debates”, together with Friedrich Ebert Stiftung Moldova. The electronic newsletters were developed based on the radio programmes interviews with political analysts, politicians, decision-makers, representatives of the ruling parties and the opposition and distributed electronically to more than 1000 recipients.*

1.4. Project: Project: “Moldova reality check – Study visit to Moldova for the US Congressmen in 2017: GMF/BST

2. Use of the core and institutional funding by Foundation Open Society Institute (FOSI):

OSI’s core and institutional funding has enabled APE to undertake the following organizational development activities:

- 1) Team building and research objectives
- 2) Implementing APE Communication Strategy

During the reporting period, APE has undertaken the following activities in accordance with its Communication Strategy:

- Published 13 monthly Foreign Policy Newsletter were distributed electronically to over 1000 subscribers comprising the representatives of all target groups;
- Published over 15 analysis, commentaries and studies on European Association Agenda, Transnistrian conflict and Moldovan relations with Ukraine, Russian Federation and media literacy. Annexe 1;
- Recorded and published over 15 interviews with Moldovan and European officials and experts, including APE experts and members. See Annexe 1;
- Organized two study visits for experts from Moldova and Transnistrian region. The first one took place in Warsaw, Poland, March 8, 2019, in the context of the parliamentary elections in Moldova, what are perspectives and challenges of promoting the reform agenda, developing cooperation relations with external partners. The second one took place in Tallin, Estonia, March 28 2019, in the context of the results of the parliamentary elections in the Republic of Moldova and their impact on regional security.
- Maintained and updated regularly **APE website** www.ape.md, which contains APE studies, publications and commentaries, as well as ads and press releases on events organized by the Association. Currently the APE webpage is updated technically;

- Updating **APE Facebook page** (<https://www.facebook.com/ape.md>), where APE experts post their policy papers, studies, interviews, projects and jobs announcements, press releases, as well as photos from events that have already taken place.
- Maintaining and updating new created by APE Facebook page -“**Femeia de azi Pacea de mâine! Dialog-Siguranță-Progres**”/Woman of Today, Peace of Tomorrow! Dialogue, Safety, Progress (<https://www.facebook.com/FemeiaDeAziPaceaDeMaine/>), dedicated to women, peace and security agenda (WPS), where different experts, officials, diplomats, mass-media can share their policy papers, comments and opinions, interviews, as well as to publish relevant information about WPS.

3) Enhanced APE staff skills and capacities

4. Financial sustainability/fundraising/income generating activities

During the reporting period, APE has succeeded to extend its cooperation with new donors and previous donors, such as: The German Marshal Fund of the United States/Black Sea Trust for Regional Cooperation, Austrian Development Agency, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung – Moldova office. In addition, APE established cooperation with new donors, namely, the European Union and Konrad Adenauer Stiftung Foudation. In 2018/2019, APE has applied 2 new projects together with other three local partners, designed to develop Moldovan civil society organizations at local and regional level and increase their capacities; promote Moldovan foreign policy options and political vector of its development (“White pages of Moldovan foreign policy”).

Future plans and challenges

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

1. Supporting European Integration of the Republic of Moldova:

1.1 Assisting governmental institutions in achieving Moldova’s European integration goals through constructive monitoring, expertise input and project partnerships (focus on the cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration, Ministry of Interiors, Ministry of Defence):

- Organize 3 networking CSOs forums within the project aimed to develop Moldovan local grass-roots, financed by the EU and KAS; Conducting mentoring and coaching session for sub-grantees in the Central and Transnistrian region;
- Continue issuing the local Newsletter Synthesis of Foreign Policy; Regional Newsletter EaP Think Bridge;
- Conduct research on EU – Moldova and EU member states – Moldova relations;
- Promote the Women Peace and security Agenda.

1.2 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.

- Initiate an assessment of the cooperation between Republic of Moldova and EU, EU member states and provide the result in public debates and press clubs;
- Provide monthly comments and analysis on domestic and external events in the field of foreign policy, security and European affairs both in Romanian and Russian;

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 society in promoting confidence building measures in the areas of “frozen conflicts” of the Eastern Partnership.
3. Strengthening the role of the Law enforcement agencies in Security Sector Reform:
- Raise the awareness of the authorities and journalists about their role in promoting and implementing the security sector reform as part of the good governance process;
 - Increase authorities’ understanding on the need to better communicate and cooperate in accordance with the Association Agenda and National security interests;
 - Provide a continuous platform for discussing the national security agenda and increase the awareness on the public on topics related to national, regional and international security.
 - Create a network of security experts;
 - Issue the third issue of the Newsletter on security sector reform monitoring;
 - Enhance the capacities of the gender aspect in security relate topics in the framework of the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security.
4. Strengthening the APE staff skills and capabilities as well as institutional communicational and advocacy procedures:
- Improving the APE communication strategy with a focus on national and international outreach; Elaborate a new communication strategy in accordance with the existing emerging trends.
 - Enhancing the analytical and advocacy skills as well as research methodology in order to provide qualified policy recommendations. Training on: communication, advocacy and fund raising.
 - Initiate an internal governance audit and a financial audit;
 - Initiate a process of rebranding and elaborating a public relations strategy;
 - Extend the area of research on regional level.

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

- Publish 8 Policy Briefs on Moldova’s European association challenges and perspectives, Transnistrian Confidence Building processes, Information resilience, Security Sector Reform, Human rights and gender aspects, Resilience building, Moldova- Russia relations, EU – Moldova relations, Moldova – Romania relations;
- Broadcast Radio Program “European Integration and Foreign Policy Debates” on the Public Radio Moldova 1 and Issue Newsletters;
- Organize the 7th Annual Moldovan European Integration Debate Forum, Chisinau, Fall 2019;
- Organize up to 5 public debates on foreign policy and security topics (Relations of the Republic of Moldova with Germany, Russia, EU and Romania, Assessment of the Moldovan Foreign Policy);
- Organize 6 public discussions regarding the Euro-Atlantic cooperation with academia environment (students, professors) throughout Republic of Moldova;
- Issue 2 newsletters on the Security Sector Reform process of the Republic of Moldova.
- Continue the cooperation with Women’s Association in the Ministry of Interiors, UN Women and Ministry of Interiors;

- Undertake trainings on research methodology and advocacy as well as improve the communication strategy and outreach.

The key challenges for the next period would be to:

1. Due to the recent debates on the Governmental initiatives to update the Law on civil society, APE found itself among those organizations, which were most, affected in terms of public relations. This might be an impediment in establishing new partnership with new donors;
2. Identify new talented associate researchers from academic community. We intend to identify new talented young researchers in order to extend the research area;
3. Political concentration of power could impede the partnerships with major public institutions.