

NARRATIVE REPORT

INFORMATION

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| Organization: | Romanian Center for European Policies (CRPE) |
| Project title: | Eastern Neighbours and Russia: Close links with EU citizens (ENURC) |
| Title of the activity: | “What’s next after the Eastern Partnership? EU membership perspective for Eastern Europe” |
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IMPLEMENTATION

CRPE obtained approval for the event **within the “Eastern Neighbors and Russia: Close links with EU citizens - ENURC” – with the support of “Europe of citizens Programme of the European Union”** to be organized in the margins of EUROSAT - the annual European debates forum which has been taking place in Romania since 2013. The goal of the event was complementary with the objective of EUROSAT - bringing together politicians, civil society representatives, business leaders, stakeholders and citizens, in order to debate the most important topics of the Eastern Partnership agenda following Riga summit, thus facilitating a more evidence and dialogue-based position for EU member states and EaP members.

In this context, CRPE decided to organize, together with Europuls, the third edition of EUROSAT, that took place on May 29, 2015 at the Parliament Palace in Bucharest.

Within the event, CRPE organized the opening session with the topic **“What’s next after the Eastern Partnership? EU membership perspective for Eastern Europe”** that focused on the Eastern Partnership and the EU perspective in the East, Riga EaP summit conclusions, and the new challenges within the Black Sea Region. CRPE prepared the invitation (Annex 1) and agenda (Annex 2) of the event and also a list with speakers (Annex 3).

The event was attended by high level EU officials from the European Commission, members of the European Parliament, politicians from Romania, experts, members of civil society and relevant stakeholders that shaped their positions and expectations towards the European Union and the Eastern Partnership. Moreover, the session was also attended by high level experts from Ukraine, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, the Visegrad countries and the Baltic region.

Valeriu Zgonea - President, Chamber of Deputies, Romania – opened the session. He declared that „even if Riga Summit failed to offer overoptimistic expectations, the Eastern Partnership project is a success. Romania is an active actor in supporting the reform processes taking place in the EaP countries”

Ana Birchall – Member of the Parliament, Chamber of Deputies, Romania – pointed out that despite the modest results of the Riga Summit, this should not prove dissuasive. Mrs. Birchall argued that despite the internal and external challenges faced by Georgia, R Moldova and Ukraine, the Association Agreement was signed by the three countries with the EU and this is promising for the future of EaP.

Radu Podgorean – Secretary of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Romania - declared that „Romania has supported the importance of strengthening the Eastern Partnership as an EU strategic tool for developing relations with Eastern neighborhood. I would have liked a more firm and clear supporting statement from the Riga Summit towards the countries which have demonstrated a clear commitment on the road to Euro-Atlantic integration: Republic of Moldova, Ukraine and Georgia.”

Andi Cristea – Member of the European Parliament, - considers the Riga summit not necessary a disappointment, but a call to return to “work”. There is gap between the citizens’ expectations and the actions of the politicians, but Brussels or Bucharest can not implement reforms in the EaP countries, it is up to the local politicians to do so.

Cristian Preda – Member of the European Parliament, declared „Moldova's accession to the EU does not depend on Romania, even though our country is a special for our neighbor. European integration of the Republic of Moldova depends primarily on what happens in Chisinau, and secondly the political and security context, broader, not limited to bilateral relations with Romania and the support that we can give in this regard. You cannot say that this will happen due to Romania or will not happen because of Romania”.

Andrew Razsbash – Adviser, Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations-reconfirmed the high importance of the Eastern Partnership as a specific dimension of the European Neighbourhood Policy. However, he stated that EU enlargement in Eastern Europe is not yet feasible.

Ghia Nodia -Tbilisi-based think-tank Caucasus Institute for Peace, Democracy and Development, Director – proposed that the countries which signed the Association Agreements with the EU should receive special attention.

The conference “**What’s next after the Eastern Partnership? EU membership perspective for Eastern Europe**” involved an exchange of expertise and dialogue among citizens, academics and decision-makers with an emphasis on EU enlargement policy and EU’s approach towards Eastern Partnership. It gathered recommendations, perceptions and ideas from both the speakers and the participants that engaged actively in the debate. The participants have had the possibility to share ideas on EU’s enlargement policy with the policymakers.

The event proved to be successful in increasing the level of awareness and knowledge on EU’s concerns and main positions towards the EaP countries and also created the incentives for a better understanding of the relationship between EaP countries and Brussels in Central and Eastern European Countries.

In order to promote and disseminate the information about the event- we used the following: (1) updating the website www.eurosfat.ro with all the relevant information concerning the event , (2) using the social media tools - Facebook, Google + to promote the event (3) posting announcements on the official website of the partner organizations www.crpe.ro and www.europuls.ro and (4) submitting individual invitations to relevant stakeholders. **The event was attended by 293** participants plus 15 speakers, **coming from 10 countries.**

VISIBILITY OF THE PROJECT AND FUNDING PROGRAMME

CRPE published the description of the project and the event organized on its website. The information about the project can be accessed within the “Projects” section on www.crpe.ro and information about the event can be accessed within the “Events” section. Moreover, we have updated the information on our website after finalizing the project with the number of participants and number of partner countries. Special attention has been given to highlight the importance of the Donor, using the Donor’s visual identity as described within the guideline.

Regarding communication with 3rd parties, we used the title of the project (Eastern Neighbours and Russia: Close links with EU citizens – ENURC) and ensured the visibility of the logo of the Europe for Citizens programme on all documents (invitation, agenda, program of the event on www.europuls.ro) mentioning that “This event is organized with the support of the Europe for Citizens programme of the European Union”.

BENEFICIARIES

The direct beneficiaries of this activity were representatives of government, civil society, mass media, academia, business as well as individuals.

| Beneficiaries (excluding speakers) | Gender | | Age (younger than 30) | Age (between 30 and 65) | Total |
|------------------------------------|------------|------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|------------|
| | Male | Female | | | |
| <i>CSO Representatives</i> | 36 | 49 | 47 | 38 | 85 |
| <i>Business representatives</i> | 10 | 11 | 20 | 1 | 21 |
| <i>Government representatives</i> | 17 | 27 | 9 | 35 | 44 |
| <i>Individuals</i> | 27 | 27 | 39 | 15 | 54 |
| <i>Academia</i> | 31 | 51 | 78 | 4 | 82 |
| <i>Mass media</i> | 5 | 2 | 6 | 1 | 7 |
| Total | 126 | 167 | 199 | 94 | 293 |

MEDIA OUTREACH

| No | Media (name) | Link | Date |
|----|--------------------|---|------------|
| 1. | Evenimentul Zilei | http://www.evz.ro/eurosfat.html | 29.05.2015 |
| 2. | Calea Europeana | http://www.caleaeuropeana.ro/eurosfat-2015-relatiile-externe-ale-ue-si-rolul-romaniei-in-cadrul-noului-context-geopolitic-regional-si-global/ | 30.05.2015 |
| 3. | Money | http://www.money.ro/rusia-nu-are-nevoie-de-tancuri-pentru-a-cuceri-chisinaul/ | 29.05.2015 |
| 4. | Jurnal de Chisinau | http://www.jurnal.md/ro/politic/2015/5/30/dezbateri-la-bucuresti-moldova-se-afla-la-etapa-capitalismului-oligarhic-coruptia-la-cel-mai-inalt-nivel-de-la-independenta/ | 30.05.2015 |
| 5. | Pagina Romaneasca | http://www.politicaromaneasca.ro/pages/cautare/EUROSFAT | 30.05.2015 |
| 6. | E-chisinau | http://e-chisinau.com/?p=309 | 30.05.2015 |

IMPACT

The event “**What’s next after the Eastern Partnership? EU membership perspective for Eastern Europe**” targeted government officials, civil society representatives, the business sector, students, experts, etc. The event had an important media coverage, being shared and promoted by important media agencies and

newspapers from both Romania and Moldova. The event had an impressive turnout (293 participants) due to the outstanding speakers taking part in the event and the positive track record of the event. Moreover, the event was attended by high level officials and experts from **Ukraine, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Visegrad countries and the Baltic region.**

INNOVATIVE ASPECTS

The innovative aspects of the event are following:

1. Stimulating debate and new scenarios for EU – EaP relationship
2. Influencing a wider debate among speakers and participants
3. Convening and networking among CSO representatives from Romania and foreign partner countries.
4. Raising awareness about EU enlargement policy