

"THE EUROPEAN UNION IS 50: INTEGRATION IN THE ENP AREA" international conference was organized in Yerevan, Armenia on November 18-19, 2007 by the International Center of Human Development (ICHD), one of the leading think-tanks in Armenia in partnership with the Center for European Law and Integration with the support of DFID, Delegation of the European Commission to Armenia and OSCE.

The conference was attended by more than 20 foreign and 125 local participants, representing government agencies and non-governmental organizations, as well as a number of foreign missions in Armenia and leading international institutions.

This publication includes the speeches made and papers presented at the conference.



THE EUROPEAN UNION IS 50: INTEGRATION IN THE ENP AREA

FROM TACIS TO ENPI

A Collection of Conference Speeches





EUROPEAN UNION



**THE EUROPEAN UNION IS 50:
Integration in the ENP Area / From TACIS to ENPI**

International Conference

November 18-19, Yerevan

**A Collection of
Conference Speeches**



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The conference brought together representatives of various interested organizations from Armenia, Georgia, Ukraine, Turkey, Bulgaria and Romania as well as major European institutions such as the EU, NATO, OSCE, CoE. The conference focused on cooperation and integration issues, which are viewed as the best way to promote European values, European Neighborhood Policy (ENP), IPAP, and commitments undertaken by Armenia upon becoming a member of the Council of Europe.

The conference was attended by more than 20 foreign and 125 local participants, representing government agencies and non-governmental organizations, as well as a number of foreign missions in Armenia and leading international institutions.

This publication includes the speeches made and papers presented at the conference.

*Executive Director
International Center for Human Development,
Armenia*

Welcome Address

Ladies and gentlemen,

I would like to welcome all the conference participants.

I am happy to see this event turning into a tradition: it is already the third year we are getting together to explore the process of European integration, to learn and share. However, this conference is special in that it celebrates the 50th anniversary of the European Union, a powerful community that has survived in the times of trouble. The 20th century was a controversial time for Europe, for the European history and perception of Europe in general. The conflicts, world wars and the competition between the nation states and transnational unions allowed Shpengler to claim about the sunset of Europe. Samuel Huntington called the 20th century a time characterized with the crash of civilizations, or a century of conflicts. Considering the development tendencies in the world, Francis Fukuyama proclaimed about the victory of liberalism and predicted that with it the world history would probably come to its end.

However, regardless of these quotes, setting a cataclysmic background, and the attempts to undermine the role of the European Union as a world leader, driven from certain political and economic interests, it is obvious that the European civilization has been playing a leading role within the current world order, and I am certain that in the 21st century - the time of logic and ideology - Europe will undoubtedly preserve this leading position, since it anchor fundamental values. It is these very values that encourage other states to develop closer relations with Europe. I have never been an advocate of faceless integration, but have always believed that one needs to integrate

with Europe preserving its own value system. The European community will only get richer if other civilizations and experiences are interwoven with its value system.

Once again welcome to the conference! I wish all of us fruitful work.

Thank you!

*Deputy Minister
Ministry of Finance and Economy
of the Republic of Armenia*

Dear participants, guests, ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great honor to be with you here today, especially to welcome you and open this conference. I would like to thank the organizers of this conference and the key people who made this event possible. I am certain that this very important conference organized within the framework of activities dedicated to the 50th anniversary of the European Union will incite new ideas, will freshly inspire the EU's new neighborhood regional policy, as well as promote the integration process and partnership between Armenia and the European Union.

Today the 50 year old European Union brings together 27 countries where more than 450 million people live. It unites economic, political, financial and legal systems of these countries, their rich pasts, cultural diversity and traditions. Still, most importantly, it reflects their common goal of creating a peaceful, affluent and predictable future.

The countries of the world and their people recognize European Union not only for the high level of its public, social-economic and political development and not only as one of the best modern civilizations ensuring human development, but also as an entity that possesses a clear vision for its future and a clearly defined foreign policy where its positions regarding its neighbors are clear and concise. Obviously, this is a policy that aims at stability, affluence, security and interaction in the EU neighborhood.

With involvement within the framework of the European Neighborhood Policy, Armenia witnessed and participated in more profound developments of that policy. These experiences had a significant contribution to the reforma-

tion processes and most importantly, influenced the process of Armenia's integration with Europe.

Except the importance of trade and economic, financial, scientific, educational and regional integration, I would like to mention also about the significance of the Christian value system which is the foundation of all the experiences of creation, survival, important historical events and development of Armenia, European Union and its members.

The Republic of Armenia and the European Union have very differentiated and unique relations, the peculiarities of which are secured in the EU-Armenia Action Plan. At the same time all the other prerequisites to ensure the consideration of our interests and the progressive developments in the direction of European integration are also secured. They are intertwined in all the different documents ratified as of today, such as the National Program on European integration and Partnership and Cooperation, the 2007-2010 Indicative Program, etc.

The integrity of the above-mentioned allows promoting important developments, have a foundation, based on which the interests can be balanced, define priorities, successfully use all the instruments typical for the new neighborhood policy which is directed towards close cooperation and implementation projects, such as Twinning, TAIEX, Direct Budgetary Support, Cross Border Cooperation and a number of other projects of the European financial institutions.

In conclusion I would to share with you my expectations, namely that the outcomes of this conference will become a nice platform for highlighting and effectively addressing mutual interests and priorities. I wish you all success and fruitful time which will contribute to the future developments and beneficial cooperation.

Thank you!

From TACIS to ENPI: New Instruments for Cooperation

*Head of the ENPI Unit,
Ministry of Finance and Economy
of the Republic of Armenia*

From TACIS to ENPI: Quantitative and Qualitative Changes

Since 2007 the European Neighbourhood Policy Instrument (ENPI) has come to replace TACIS, a fact, which led to serious quantitative and qualitative changes. ENPI is a financial instrument assisting the implementation of the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP), which promotes political dialog, institutional reforms and approximation of the RA legislation to the legislation of the European Union.

In the coming four years under the umbrella of the National Indicative Program for 2007-10 the European Commission will provide assistance to the Republic of Armenia, which comprises about 100 million Euros. If previously the country has received only technical support within the TACIS framework, now, within ENPI some new instruments will be implemented such as budget support, TWINNING, TAIEXS and Cross Border Cooperation (CBC).

About 75% of the 100 million Euros to be provided within 2007-10 in the ENPI framework will be allotted to direct budgetary support for realization of the mutually agreed commitments in spheres which will be initially negotiated between the RA Government and relevant agencies of the European Commission. This fact can be regarded as a significant progress in RA-EU cooperation, since after satisfying the above mentioned conditions, the country will gain full sovereignty to manage the financial resources. The implementation of the budgetary support instrument has several advantages:

- It strengthens the partners' feeling of ownership towards the development process;
- It contributes to creating the necessary prerequisites for ensuring and maintaining sustainable macro-economic growth;

- It assists donors to focus on large-scale and top priority national projects, which allows expecting a more comprehensive influence of the support;
- It reduces transaction expenses of aid provision, since resources are directly allotted to the budget, which does not require setting up a project management unit;
- It contributes to the administrative capacity building of the government of the beneficiary country, since the existing state structures and procedures are being used, specifically in the sphere of public finances management;
- It increases internal and external control over budget, which, in its turn, contributes to the transparency of the budget;
- It contributes to increasing the effectiveness and sustainability of the provided assistance.

Under the umbrella of the National Action Plan for 2007 the 15 million Euros to be provided to Armenia were reserved for the field of vocational education and training, as one of the conditions of the budgetary support. This amount will be released in three tranches, the first being constant and the two others variable. The first constant tranche worth of 5 million Euros will be released immediately after signing the Memorandum on Financing, in February or March of 2008, without any pre-conditions. Two variable tranches each worth of five million Euros will be released respectively in the fiscal year of 2008- 2009, after the RA Government will have satisfied all the conditions mentioned in the Memorandum and the monitoring mission of the European Commission will have verified the process of implementation of the terms of agreement and provided a positive conclusion.

The other new instrument is called TWINNING. It is a tool to promote institutional development and has had an important role in both institutional capacity building in EU member countries and approximation of national legislations to the European.

In the context of the European Neighbourhood Policy it was decided to implement TWINNING in Armenia in order to accelerate the course of administrative reforms and support development and implementation of public policies. TWINNING seeks to reform/modernize the institutions of the beneficiary country on central, regional and local levels through training, reorganization and development of legal norms in compliance with the general legislation of the European Union. Its fundamental principle is to ensure tangible outcomes at the end of the project.

In terms of planning, the project cycle is rather large and requires certain competitive selection in order to choose and evaluate the probable partner of

the EU member state. It includes activities such as providing policy oriented consultancy (among which consultancy regarding law drafting, logistics, awareness raising, etc.), training, study tours and professional development. Expenses associated with these activities and the overall implementation of the project and relevant processes are presented in the comprehensive TWINNING manual.

In average the project will last from 12 to 24 months, in the result of which the beneficiary country should have significantly amended state institutions which will allow properly addressing all the issues related to the EU legislation or cooperation with it. In the newly independent countries (Armenia, Georgia, Azerbaijan, Moldova, Ukraine) TWINNING will be implemented through central management, which means that the contractor is the Delegation of the European Commission in the beneficiary country. In Armenia coordination of TWINNING is carried out by the TWINNING project management office which opened in 2007 at the Department of Coordination of EU Technical Assistance at the RA Ministry of Finance and Economy. It is the major administrative unit collaborating with the European Commission in regard to development and further implementation of the Indicative and Annual Action Plans under the umbrella of TACIS and ENPI. To ensure the effective implementation of this instrument three new positions were provided to the Department of Coordination of EU Technical Assistance at the RA Ministry of Finances and Economy, as well as 38 officers were appointed by the RA state institutions to be responsible for the implementation of TWINNING.

TAIEX (Technical Assistance Information Exchange Unit) is the major instrument used by the Institution Building Unit of Directorate-General Enlargement of the European Commission. In force since 1996, TAIEX provides short-term technical assistance in the field of approximation and application of EU legislation. Armenia is included in TAIEX as a beneficiary country since 2007. TAIEX is a demand-driven tool, which means that assistance is provided mostly as demanded by the country. TAIEX is derived from a strategy as well, i.e. these demands are based on the priorities defined by the EC. A number of initiatives being implemented under TAIEX prove the strategic nature of TAIEX. The major objectives of TAIEX are as follows:

- to provide short-term technical assistance and consultancy to the beneficiary country for approximation of the national legislation to that of the European Union and its further application;
- to educate and train civil servants in the beneficiary country;
- to compile and provide information regarding EU legislation

- The following types of assistance are provided under TAIEX:
- Experts from EU member states are sent to the beneficiary country with short-term missions, the goal of which is to provide consultancy about presenting, accepting and enforcing EU legislation and other legal acts and in addition, to share the existing best practice,
- Study tours for civil servants into EU countries in order to get acquainted with the overall EU legislation,
- Organization of working meetings and seminars in beneficiary countries, which seek to present the EU legislation to a wider audience and clarify relevant issues. This type of assistance can focus on needs of one or several countries that face similar challenges. In case of several countries it is possible to develop a network and start sharing experiences.

Under TAIEX the beneficiaries are the state institutions which participate in the process of approximation and application of the EU legislation in corresponding fields. No direct assistance is provided to citizens or companies.

The target groups are the following:

- civil servants at state institutions or self governance bodies,
- representatives of the judiciary institutions,
- members of the National Assembly and other staff,

Cross Border Cooperation (CBC) is an indispensable component of the European Neighbourhood Policy, which allows both EU members and partner countries to engage in regional cooperation projects. CBC projects under ENPI include the countries of Eastern Europe, South Caucasus and eastern and southern parts of the Mediterranean Basin. The project priorities, territories and indicative financial distribution are defined by ENPI Cross Border Cooperation Strategy Paper.

The major goals of the EU CBC are to ensure sustainable development towards the external borders of the UE, reduce the difference between the living standards in the territories beyond these borders, and face other challenges and opportunities resulting from the EU expansion.

The Sea Basin CBC project is one of the three programs implemented within the ENPI CBC and considering the scarcity of financial resources, it is one of the most complicated ones. The Black Sea Program covers 834, 719 square meters with 74,2 million population. It covers ten countries, among which Armenia, Georgia, Azerbaijan and Moldova are included with their whole territories, and the rest – Romania, Bulgaria, Russia, Turkey and Ukraine

– only partially, i.e. the program covers those territories of the latter, which are near the Black Sea. Four of these ten countries – Armenia, Greece, Azerbaijan and Moldova – do not have immediate borders with the Black Sea, but are integrated or connected with the Black Sea Basin with historical, economic, cultural, social and environmental factors. The other six countries (Bulgaria, Romania, Russia, Turkey, Georgia and Ukraine) have direct access to the Black Sea.

The participants of the Program are categorized into three groups:

- Countries included in the ENPI Regulation (EC) No 1638/2006: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, Russia and Ukraine,
- EU member states: Bulgaria, Greece and Romania,
- Candidate for EU membership, a negotiating state: Turkey.

According to the ENPI CBC Strategy Paper, cooperation based on mutual interests and values is considered of utmost importance. The goal of the EU is not pushing its partners to further cooperation. Therefore, the cooperation established to implement the project was improved and covered all partner states, at the same time getting the assistance of the European Commission, which provides support through technical assistance projects. During the development and implementation of the program each participating state was ensured a general and equal involvement.

The Joint Managing Authority (JMA) of the program was created in Romania under the auspices of the Ministry of European Integration, currently renamed Ministry of Development, Public Work and Housing. In 2006 the partner countries created the Joint Working Group, which was responsible for the development of the Joint Program. Regular meetings have been held to build up consensus regarding this document. The partner states have defined a common goal: to establish stronger regional partnerships and cooperation, which means that the program seeks to contribute to the sustainable and strong social-economic development among the regions of the Black Sea Basin.

The program has three distinct objectives:

- To promote economic and social development in regions near the borders;
- To join efforts to address common challenges;
- To promote local and people-to-people cooperation.

The program is financed through ENPI. Turkey's participation is ensured through the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA). Participatory states should co-finance the relevant projects investing the 10% of the overall budget of the given project. The overall budget for the ENPI is 17.305,994 Euros for 2007-2013, with the exception of Turkey. Financial support to Turkey will comprise 1.000.000Euros annually for 2007-2009, which will be provided by IPA.

According to Clause H of the Article 14 of the ENPI General Provisions non-state actors, local and regional organizations, non-governmental and non-profit organizations have the right to apply for assistance through this program. Only those organizations that are situated on the territories covered by the program have the right to apply for funding through the program. Organizations outside this territory may participate in the program only if the Joint Monitoring Committee provides a serious rationale for the necessity of such participation, which will prove that the exclusion of this partner may jeopardize the implementation of the project or create serious obstacles as mentioned in the Article 40/2/ of the EC Regulation No 951/2007.

Considering the fact that the program is international, the official language of the program is English. Currently the final draft of the Joint Program has been submitted to the Joint Managing Authority and is in the final stage of discussion.

**The European Union is 50:
Integration in the ENP Area**

*Chairman of the National Assembly
of the Republic of Armenia*

Considering that the process has only started and a comparatively short time has passed, we can acknowledge that progress has been made. Though there were some relations even earlier, the starting date of the process can be considered the January of 2001, when Armenia became a member of the Council of Europe. I am sure that this kind of success is rare, especially, in the countries that have been deprived of processes such as European integration for decades and have practiced a totally different value system.

There are unsolved issues. Considering the second phase or second generation reforms in Armenia, ENP records successes of the first phase and defines the issues to be addressed in the second phase. I think the reforms in the judicial system are perhaps the most important in the list of issues. Full approximation of this system with the European standards will allow making appropriate amendments in other sectors as well. In the recent two years these processes have speeded up and I am sure that this is the result of constitutional amendments. Incidentally, development is recorded not only in the direction of democracy, human rights and the rule of law, but also in economy. For instance, the budget for 2008 which was being discussed in the National Assembly a few days ago has certain indicators which, through the mid-term program, are planned for 2010. This may seem strange at first sight, but there is a direct relation among constitutional amendments, developments conditioned with these changes and the economic growth.

European integration derives from our national interest and naturally, this is not connected with either today or tomorrow. Otherwise, we wouldn't be involved in this process. Why? Because I am certain that the values which underlie the activities of the European community are very similar to our values. A look at our past will reveal that the Armenian culture and mentality are based on the same values. Unfortunately, these values are misper-

ceived and misinterpreted. Our society needs to be presented with a clear definition of these values, thus people will be able to understand that they are in harmony with our approaches and principles. The national should not be contrasted with European values or the development towards Europe. Moreover, integration with Europe will allow organizing the social and public lives with the help of instruments which have been tested in societies with similar value systems and principles. This is what really matters. European integration touches not only the foreign relations of the country, but the internal development as well. This successful experience should be taken into account in the management of our internal affairs. These two issues – national and European – are absolutely in harmony. When the European community became more organized, specifically with the formation and development of the European Union, in the member countries issues related to national identity were addressed more effectively. Therefore, there is absolutely no contradiction between the national and international.

I think that the shortcoming of the European Neighborhood Policy is the fact that the National Assembly does not fully participate in the implementation of the program. Of course, issues eventually end up facing the necessity of appropriate legislation and in this regard the National Assembly is obviously involved in the process. However, since European integration is not only about addressing economic issues, but using European values and principles in our daily life, the involvement of the parliament should have been larger, than it is today.

There are monitoring mechanisms and the NA rights in this process are limited as well.

To be honest, no, since the current level of the EU-Armenia relations engenders the necessity of a new format for cooperation. Meetings organized once a year in the given format are not enough to address the existing issues. The committee was justified in the early phase of relations with the EU. However, now when Armenia is part of the ENP it is necessary to adopt a more profound format for cooperation in order to address the existing issues.

Assistant to the President of the Republic of Armenia

Your Excellency, Mr. Chairman of the National Assembly,
Excellencies,
Dear colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen:

I would like to thank the International Center for Human Development and the Center for European Law and Integration for once again offering this timely and highly demanded forum on the prospects of European integration.

The tactics of the European Neighborhood Policy are shaped on the go. Those tactics most probably will be changing as we test and learn through our mistakes. The speed of cooperation will alter in case of each country, conditioned by the levels of motivation. Such forums are therefore essential for Armenia, helping us shape a systemic view on our European aspirations, and they are beneficial for the European Union – allowing our partners to identify the motivations of our European dimension.

In this age of global brands, we are a part of an increasingly consuming society. We often buy and we do what is popular, what is prestigious and recognizable, and not what we really need. The first issue I want to address therefore is: what do we in Armenia expect to get from our European shopping? Are we in Brussels to re-fill the stocks of our European heritage or are we ‘brandaholics’ who dye to obtain something absolutely above our purchasing capacity and beyond our essential needs?

Answering this first question we necessarily come across a level of analysis problem: What is Europe? Is it a geographic unit or a home to people with the same – European identity? Is it a lifestyle? Is it a common market or a form of a multi-national corporation?

Lately sharing with a friend my impressions from different European countries, I suddenly realized how diverse Europe is and how different are the Europeans. From cuisine to dressing codes, from home design to working hours, from preferred mode of transportation to music listened and played

Europeans are different to extremes. There are many ways in which Arabs are much closer to Spaniards than the Finns are. Europeans are as different as pudding and baklava.

The geography test fails either. Is Turkey in or out? What about Russia, at least to Ural Mountains? Who has decided Europe shall stop where it does in the Mediterranean, and should extend as far as it goes in the Atlantic?

In organizational structures it becomes even worse:

- The OSCE, including the United States, Canada, Kazakhstan and the others,
- the EU, excluding Norway,
- and the Council of Europe, which more than a decade ago was already sure to speak about the European heritage of the South Caucasus states.

This all makes the picture extremely confusing.

And then the only answer I find to the difficult question of what Europe is - is that of ideological commonality, based on the deeply rooted system of liberal values. Liberalism, born in the European international society and since spreading around the globe is the key factor making Europe so attractive. Liberalism - in the most pragmatic dimension of human freedoms and protected liberties.

In the fashionable discussions on illiberal democracies we often miss a major point. That is while we know many examples of illiberal democracies it is virtually impossible to recall any example to the contrary. I mean undemocratic liberalisms.

It is not about the amount of money, since there are countries much richer than many European ones. It is not about the living conditions, since there are many regions environmentally much cleaner and socially much more accommodating. But there is no place in the world where a human being – a citizen or an alien alike feels so much free and so much protected.

And that freedom and the respect, that attitude – they come first. Labels shall follow, not vice versa. Many Eastern European societies today seem to be frustrated and confused. They have been named members of the EU, but they woke up next morning exactly the same they were on the eve of their accession festivities. The political processes was completed and economic reforms were sustainable, however the societal transformation that would

make them true and contemporary Europeans in terms of Human Liberalism, if I may offer that term, was not completed. And it could not be.

It takes a change in generation, living in the new economic formation, growing up in a different set of rules, procedures and most importantly realities to achieve a value-based European society. In each of the ENP states, just like in many of the newly admitted EU members, conditions vary significantly.

What makes Europe attractive for Armenia, and first of all – for the people of Armenia – is the liberal freedom it is based upon. Illiberal democracies are possible, while undemocratic liberalisms are not. Liberalism is the aim, while democracy is one of its functions only, even if the key one. It is about motivation of each particular state. And in that sense the European vector of Armenia's development is only natural.

Dear colleagues:

It has been many times reiterated by President Kocharyan and Minister Os-kanyan that Armenian watches the European integration and ENP frame-work as a new catalyst of the liberal reforms in the country.

And that tool comes extremely timely, as Armenia has launched the second generation of reforms, where the specific professional expertise is an essential requirement for successful fine-tuning of the key regulatory mechanisms. Now it will take a serious commitment on the side of the Armenian government and consistent work at all levels of the state administration to make full use of that tool and learn from the others' experiences rather than from own mistakes.

As with any open-ended system, ENP on one hand is not a guarantee of success in itself, and on the other – does not limit the opportunities available to its participants.

Despite being an ENP participant, a country could and most probably would successfully fail if it substitutes real reforms by political rhetoric of its European aspirations. As an Eastern wisdom goes: the mouth does not get sweet by claiming halva. Moreover, there is a serious danger of losing the momentum of the reform in the excitement of political declarations. In other words, there is a very delicate line to be drawn between the projection of political will necessary to mobilize public support and Europropaganda, surrogating a true action, or rather inaction.

That is precisely why ENP action plans shall be drafted, adopted, implemented, reviewed and re-visited on the most pragmatic grounds of the country's sustainable development needs.

In the very spirit of liberalism the ENP is based upon carrots, with no substantial sticks. It therefore takes a serious self-discipline and mutual commitment to move that process on. Highest level of coordination and harmonization of Action plan commitments with the core domestic policy planning and implementation tools, like the Government's annual action plan, is the shortest and most obvious way towards the success.

And to make that policy truly successful we must fully incorporate it into public agenda. The civil society groups shall be actively involved in both the macro-planning, and the micro-implementation levels of the change.

On the other hand, ENP in no way limits opportunities available to the participating states. It rather offers unlimited opportunities. Indeed, it will now be with each participant of ENP to identify and explore issues of priority and tools of their achievement. There shall be a balance found in advancing bilateral cooperation with EU member-states, incorporation of their support into a wider ENP-based policy agenda, and multilateral cooperation with EU structures and other, particularly regional ENP participants.

The visit of President Kocharyan to Brussels this October was the fifth in the last ten years. However, it was everything except for being routine, business as usual, and a visit. The issues on the agenda, the depth and the character of the discussions proved a major change in the level of dialogue. Visa facilitation, trade regimes, establishment of European regional centers in Armenia, scientific, cultural and educational cooperation are only a few of the domains on which there is mutual understanding and definite commitment.

We were particularly encouraged to note that the Commission's proposals for our future joint action fully coincide and support our country's agenda for change. Be it in the field of political, economic, legal or social reform what we are asked to do coincide with what we have already planned to do. Probably with the exception of the outstanding Medzamor issue there is a full meeting of minds. On Medzamor our minds also meet, even if reasonably disagreeing at that meeting point.

Dear colleagues:

To grow to the level of a full and efficient partnership, ENP has to be based on giving along with the receiving. It shall be a mutually enriching dialogue. What is it that we, as neighbors can contribute towards the achievement of the EU agenda?

I believe the very term of “European Neighborhood” explains what our European partners expect from us. What would each of us expect from our neighbors in a condominium or a local community?

- Contribution to common security,
- Refraining from creating troubles and problems for the living space,
- Predictability for each other,
- Friendly relations, coped with non-interference in our domestic affairs and privacy.

We all understand that prosperity surrounded by poverty is a time-bomb. Illegal migration, high criminality, including cross-border cartels, social conflicts are all rooted in misbalanced development. To enjoy own achievements one needs to be able to share those achievements with like-minded people, at a similar level of interests and sophistication.

We, therefore, shall realize that if we want to contribute towards advancement of a common European living space, we need to become more stable, more transparent, more committed.

We shall actively promote diversified and competitive economy, shall prioritize and advance rural development, shall invest more in people – providing better healthcare and better education. And particularly that education has to be European – in terms of languages our children speak, programs they cross-register for within the Bologna concept of student mobility, involvement of the state-of-art long-distance learning technologies and electronic libraries.

We often look to Europe to get help in addressing our regional problems. We expect Europe to mediate between us and support us in implementation. We shall be honest in recognizing that without us Europe has enough to address, do and solve. While the European structures and EU member-states are willing to support us in a friendly manner, their most preferred scenario would be not to have any new disputes and issues to look into. They would love to see us solving our own controversies.

We, the neighbor states, shall do our best to build up solid foreign policy based on values, not short-term benefits. Advancing on the basis of short-term benefits usually brings long-term troubles.

We shall contribute towards common security. And that contribution has got to be substantial: through solving existing controversies and preventing spreading of the new ones. We shall realize that there is no place for dividing lines neither within Europe, nor in its neighborhood.

Now, when ENP states are given the opportunity to align themselves with EU foreign policy statements, we shall become more active on issues and situations which till now seemed to be irrelevant to our immediate needs. We shall realize that we are part of a wider society and shall be prepared to express ourselves on the accordingly wider agenda.

For that we need to develop our resources in academia, media, public sector, and within interest groups. The size of a state shall not preclude it from offering and speaking out on a wider policy agenda.

For that our IR studies shall extend their research and teaching beyond the regional system. Our think-tanks shall offer programs specializing on narrow professional issues and country-specific studies. Our media shall after all recruit professional IR commentators and take a more pro-active stance on issues which seem to take place far away and much beyond Karabagh and Genocide recognition topics.

Small states' diplomacy needs not be small. As offered by Professor Allan Henrikson, there are many examples of states small in size and population successfully putting major points on IR agenda at a global scale.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The process of European integration historically has been uneasy one. From the Peace of Westphalia and Vienna Congress to Versailles and Potsdam, from Coal and Steel Union to our days of the Constitutional Treaty it has always been a struggle, but more importantly – an improvisation on the go. The European Neighborhood Policy is in no way an exception. It is being formed as we advance, and it will be what we jointly make of it.

Thank you.

From National to European Dynamics: can ENP become a change catalyst for Integration and Cooperation

*Research Fellow,
Basel University*

In the Communication on Wider Europe (2003), the EU asserted its determination to enhance political and economic interdependence with the Union's neighbours on the basis of shared values (democracy, human rights, rule of law, good governance, principles of market economy and sustainable development) by promoting stability and prosperity outside the EU borders. Armenia and the EU committed themselves to build their future co-operation within the framework of the European Neighbourhood Policy. The EU is ready to start deeper political and economic integration which should offer neighbouring states a chance to start and implement reforms.

Drawing on the near history of accession processes of Central and Eastern European states, the EU can play a crucial role in helping to improve political and economic system of transitional countries. For example, the adoption of European standards help increase reliability of national economy and business enterprises on international markets, lead to reforms (e.g. liberalization and more efficient functioning of certain sectors), offer more opportunities for many interest groups. However, the integration should not be perceived as a one-sided process of reaping the benefits only. It involves important commitments from both sides, where the ultimate burden of homework rests on the transition country's side. The most important aspect of closer integration, which is often not fully perceived by new cooperating states, is the principle of sharing certain common values, which are based on functioning democracy and rule of law. Pursuing deeper European integration policy often requires changing certain perceptions, habits, attitudes of the people, principles of doing business and running state institutions, some of which might have hundreds if not thousands years of history. Thus, although membership in the EU-club is often pictured as the most desirable membership in Europe, even current member states and their people, especially recent new joiners, are not always ready to embrace and fulfil all of their commitments

to common values and play an constructive role in the process of building a better Union.

On the other hand, the sophisticated legal system with different layers of European and international norms and principles that EU integration brings, not only enriches and raises the standards of everyday life, but at the same time makes national legal and political system much more complex, dynamic, even difficult to comprehend and interpret without a special background. Therefore, countries striving for closer relations with the EU and especially those who consider potentials of membership should assess very carefully their readiness and capacity for closer integration and abilities to change by undertaking new commitments.

In a very challenging Action Plan (2006), which translates the Neighbourhood agenda into the elaborate map of specific actions, the EU suggests a lot of directions where Armenia might strengthen her political, economic, social and other capacities. Given the large number of key areas covered by the the Action Plan and very concrete priorities and actions foreseen for the reform, this document could be treated as a very important guide towards the ambitious future, which should help to bring Armenia closer to European and international standards. Moreover, the role of the Action Plan shall not be understated on the basis of its political nature. The analysis of the language of the documents leads to a very interesting observation that certain commitments already imply legal or quasi-legal obligations. In quite a few places the Action Plan trespasses the boundaries of political encouragements entrenched with the words “co-operate”, “take steps”, “continue reforms” and requires Armenian side to “ensure”, “establish”, “develop”, “install” which are supplemented with a very concrete content of the action (eg “establish administrative courts”, “install freedom of assembly in line with international commitments and recommendations of the Council of Europe and OSCE”). The implementation of these commitments (or failure to implement) within the five years deadline established for the execution of the Action Plan generally might significantly affect the development of Armenian – EU relations. Therefore, a special attention has to be given to the quality of performance of such provisions.

Drawing on my experience based on participation in certain processes related with the integration of Lithuania into the EU political and legal framework, the following directions could be given for handling the integration process with the EU and its Member States:

- **Share:** Intensively share information with the relevant EU institutions and experts. Often the reason for many misunderstandings, unfulfilled commitments is a different perception of concepts, wrongly assumed or interpreted content of an undertaking, ignorance of traditions, or even the culture of treating commitments seriously. The EU or other organization or state cannot qualitatively assist Armenia if they do not know your expectations, while Armenian side must critically assess the suggested help from the perspective of local conditions.
- **Learn:** Strengthen government's regulatory and other capacities and especially educate people working for the state civil service. Market regulators are going to play a very important role in the market economy, while civil servants will be main intermediaries between the EU and Armenians. Therefore, they must have capacity to present, explain and defend Armenian interests when needed, must possess all language and professional skills that would enable them to act competently in various situations.
- **Be active:** If a country is passive, it cannot efficiently and fully receive and use financial and other help provided by the EU. Be active suggesting how EU and its experts can help, engage in a dialogue with the EU, critically evaluate the quality of information and assistance you receive. Know what you need – do not flow with the downstream of the EU proposals, evaluate them critically, set priorities, demand for the best experts in the field as there might be no second chance for such assistance.
- **Benefit from the New Member States:** Consult and use New Member States' experiences as just several years ago they encountered similar problems during their transformation process and possess a valuable know-how how to solve them. Learn from their mistakes, as you are now in a very good position with so many recent examples, first-hand experiences and data sources available for comparison!
- **Include:** it is often in the interest of business sector to foster wider economic cooperation, therefore use their expertise and contacts. They also need transparent decision making to prepare themselves for the coming reforms and remain competitive in European and global markets.
- **Educate and communicate:** the implementation of the government decisions in the democratic country to a large extent depends on the strong civil society. The principle of transparency is crucial in such processes and will help to build the trust between the government and its people. Without that trust a real democracy as a form of self-governance of people cannot function. Therefore, it is crucial that the government informs, explains and educates people, *assi*.

Therefore, as the Introduction of the Action Plan suggests, “the level of ambition of the relationship will depend on the degree of Armenia’s commitment

to common values as well as its capacity to implement jointly agreed priorities". The implementation of the goals set up by the Action Plan within a very tight deadline will require extremely good capacity of the state institutions as well as readiness of the society at large to undertake and carry reforms within the agreed framework. For those reasons Armenia cannot afford to be a passive observer of the European Neighbourhood process. At the same time, the Action Plan will serve not only as a document providing new opportunities and instructions for the improvement, but also become a litmus paper for assessing society's determination to commit for deeper integration into European and global structures.

*Deputy Minister,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia*

1. I think the topic of this session is very appropriate, in a sense that the issue of relationship between the national and global underlies practically all the fundamental processes. Essentially any complex process may tend to be fully implemented if it includes strengthening of the national state on one hand and Armenia's effective integration with the international community on the other. In this regard the European Neighborhood Policy appears to be a unique instrument to address both national and international issues Armenia is currently facing.

2. ENP AP is essentially a contract. In contrast to other documents signed with the European Union, the ENP Action Plan implies mutual obligations. On one hand, it is a plan for second generation reform in Armenia and on the other it is an outline for Europe to assist these reforms.

3. Many may doubt whether it is justified to implement such a comprehensive project of internal reforms with the assistance from an external political partner. To answer this question it is crucial to understand what kind of a political entity the European Union comprises. It is not an individual nation state, but a union of nation states sharing similarities of a common civilization, i.e. an entity the routine activities of which comprise a permanent balance between the national and the universal/supranational. It is not merely a supranational institution like international organizations. However, it is not a gigantic national state either. This reality allows pursuing national interests more effectively in the framework of relations with the EU, as well as valuates these interests in the framework of pan-European and universal incentives.

4. Another peculiarity of the European Union is the fact that it acts as both global and regional partner in the region. This reality also opens up important political and economic opportunities of cooperation for us. As an example I can mention about the economic cooperation. Today EU is the largest

global economic union in terms of its market scope. Moreover, in contrast to other large-scale global markets it is the one that is geographically the closest to Armenia. Armenia-EU trade and economic indicators are the best reflection of this fact. It is not incidental that the AP clearly states that one of the EU obligations is to allot a certain ratio from its internal market to Armenia.

5. This is the reality. However, the success of the European integration is defined by the existence of adequate perceptions. In Armenia the issue is not about adopting the fundamental value system of Europe. European integration does not imply so-called Europeanization of a nation with a non-European culture. The issue we are facing is not about civilization, i.e. a merger of one culture into another. It is rather of a temporal nature, i.e. transition of our traditional European system into the modern one, in other words the modernization of the existing system. Naturally, we do not envision any other choice but the modernization of the existing experience.

6. I believe the term “neighborhood” to be provident. I truly think we need such neighbors.

*HoU responsible for Sector
coordination within the ENP
COM RELEX*

I am actually very grateful for the title given to this session. It speaks of the ENP as a “catalyst”. This is a good word to describe the evident fact that reform and modernisation primarily depend on the efforts made by a transition country, itself. Through the ENP, the European Union can merely provide support to these domestic efforts, but cannot replace them in any way. We also know that we can neither impose nor “buy” reform by means of our assistance. We view the ENP as a “partnership-for-reform”.

Thereby, we regularly observe – and the event today makes this clear again – that partner countries find it attractive and interesting to proceed towards integration into the ENP area. They find the EU model worth emulating. And, indeed, the EU has a unique legislative and scientific machinery at its disposal, which is not replicated elsewhere. The policy debates and policy choices of the EU are often exemplary, as the EU itself is constantly striving to improve its own system, its own Community *acquis* and therefore often at the forefront of new developments. I only mention as examples the work on the services’ directive, on cooperation in the field of justice and home affairs, or the EU’s groundbreaking track record in establishing an environment *acquis* or in framing progress in addressing the challenge of climate change. The EU wields considerable normative powers. These have a global impact. I only need to mention that the GSM standard that allows everybody to use mobile phones worldwide was originally set by the EU. The precautionary principle elaborated for the “*codex alimentarius*” has been adopted into foreign food safety standards. The emission trading system is being applied ever more widely. Once the EU switched to International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) in 2005, others more readily followed. Often, the EU’s standard-setting power works along the following pattern: the EU tightens up the ambitions and implementation regime of international standards for its own internal application within the EU; subsequently, the demands set by

the EU are adopted worldwide – as, for instance, in the case of the adoption of double-hull requirements by the International Maritime Organisation (IMO). In fact, as today's event makes us look back upon 50 years of history since the founding of the European Communities, the EU can be seen as having had convergence between Member States at its very core.

How can the EU now make its achievements available to ENP partner countries? Mainly, this can be done on the basis of the experience gained in supporting the transition of our new Central and South-East European Member States after the historic changes in Europe of 1989. It was during this period that the EU matured from being only an economic giant, but a political dwarf, into becoming a global actor. During this period, the EU took on a more political role (as reflected in the Treaty of Maastricht) and filled the political void left in half of Europe after the demise of the former Soviet Union. Supporting transition during the 1990s was a new experience for the EU. Never had we done something like it before. ENP partner countries can now profit from this experience. At the time, we also established new instruments: twinning, TAIEX, the possibility for partner countries to participate in Community agencies and programmes. These are now available to countries like Armenia, too. By using our experience and these tools to underpin our policy dialogue across many policy fields, we can help reduce the transition costs that our partner countries have to incur. A gradual and measured approach towards transition can also contribute to keeping the transition costs affordable. In this context, I would like to highlight the differing ambition levels between those of the EU's accession policy and those of its integration policy within the framework of the ENP. The ENP is based on a selective approach to convergence with the *acquis*. We neither push for nor expect its wholesale adoption. For countries like Armenia, this would, I may even say, invariably be unwise, unrealistic and – in some cases – unaffordable.

The *acquis* is not only a set of legislation, but often provides guidance on administrative needs for governance in a particular sector and thus an exemplary yardstick for progress being made. In a wider sense, the *acquis* also consists of policies, statements of positions, best practices and international commitments. Therefore, convergence has different meanings, depending on the policy sector in question. We also need to bear in mind that we cannot only promote an *acquis*-driven approach. In some areas, the Community *acquis* is weak, as the EU has left such policy fields as education or public health mainly in the hands of its Member States. The same is true for poverty-reduction policies. This underlines the point that approximation needs to be chosen selectively for those sectors for which it makes most sense to a country like Armenia with a view to its administrative capacities, the means

it can dedicate to modernise individual sectors, and its particular situation as well as ambitions. The European Commission and Armenia, within their sectoral policy dialogue, can jointly identify the most appropriate pace and content of convergence with the European Community. Experience has shown that transition and convergence processes take their time, but also sustained and focused effort.

Finally, I would like to point out that the Commission has – in a Communication of December 2006 and in a soon forthcoming further Communication – taken initiatives to further strengthen the ENP. It has suggested that our Member States take clear decisions in on clearly identified future steps. In June, the German EU Presidency published a Progress Report on developments towards a stronger ENP. The EU will be able to offer its partners more to be able to interact with them as they make progress in developing their governance, economies and societies.

This brings me back to the title of our panel: I truly believe that the strengthened ENP that we have in mind, using the experience and tools developed over the last two decades, can indeed be a catalyst for integration and cooperation between Armenia and the EU.

Thank you for your attention.

*President
Yerevan Press Club, Armenia*

The distinguished chairwoman made a very peculiar highlight of Armenian motivation for European integration, comparing it to dating and marriage. In Armenia we have several models of family formation. One of them is the bride coming into the groom's household and having to obey the customs of the family. Another traditional model is when the groom with no fortune has to live in the house of his new wife, forgetting his pride and self-esteem. Hopefully, the European integration of Armenia would be a process where the two parties respect each other, are interested in each other and go for rapprochement with full realization, without suppressing each other's ideas about life, sincerely adopting common values.

In this regard I am grateful to presenters, who said several key words that must characterize the rapprochement of our country with European Union. Mr. Armen Bayburtian spoke about mutual enrichment. Recently amongst friends we had a discussion as to which criteria define the level of civilization in a certain nation. We ultimately arrived at three: firstly, this is the presence of monuments that prove the creative potential; secondly – the resource for accumulating knowledge and experience and passing them down to new generations; thirdly – the reflection of the experience accumulated in modern public ethics, political and day-to-day culture. Armenia is quite fine in terms of the first and second items – numerous architectural monuments, its own script, unique information storage, Matenadaran. And here one can speak about a modest but worthy contribution to the European civilization. But with the third item on the list we run into problems: what we observe in our reality shows that the knowledge and the experience of our ancestors have not fully transformed into steady values that our modern public institutes would be guided by. So in the process of European integration we must borrow a lot from our western partners, who have been more effective in using the common civilization heritage. The interest in mutual enrichment is incompatible with shallow speculations about “unique national mentality of Armenians” and “penetration of negative trends from Europe”.

Mr. Avet Adonts said that the time for declarative definitions is through and the imitation actions should be excluded from the European integration process. This is fully applicable to the implementation of the Action Plan for Armenia under the European Neighborhood Policy. In particular, the process of forming most important institutes, borrowed from European public and political culture, must be completed in the course of the involvement of our country in ENP. I shall quote here an example from a domain I know most, that of mass media. In accordance with the commitments to the Council of Europe the state TV and radio company of Armenia had to be transformed into a public broadcaster. We have a medium with this name since 2001, but unfortunately, in this case we are dealing with a pure imitation. With both the old and the new names this company served and serves the political interests of people at power, and in terms of air policy, programming structure it is hardly any different from commercial TV channels. Also, while receiving substantial funding from state budget, PTRC is the biggest player on the media advertising market. Without a cardinal reform of this very influential medium, in accordance with European standards, any talks about a real progress in free expression in Armenia are nothing but pure declarations.

Finally, a very important word was used by Mr. Andreas Herdina – ambitions. Without them it is practically impossible to overcome the gap that lay for more than a dozen years between the former Soviet republics and EU countries. It were the ambitions that helped some of these republics to go a long way and become full-fledged members of European family, while some of their FSU counterparts found themselves even further from European standards than they were in early 1990s. Armenia today must prove that it is not only historically and culturally linked to European civilization, but it is also capable of building up its modern life in accordance with European values. That the mutual enrichment between us and European countries can occur throughout the whole civilization field, including the democratic values. Positive ambition must call of openness, readiness to accept any criticism and respond to it by even more consistent reforms. Unfortunately, this attitude to the European integration process does not in any way correspond to Armenia's joining the initiative of some CIS countries that have recently advocated limited involvement of OSCE in the observation of national elections.

I believe our move to Europe will only be progressive, if the European structures are more demanding to us, if they raise their expectations from Armenia, and we, on our behalf, are ready to prove that we are able to outperform the expectations in the process of democratic reforms.

*Project Director,
Support to National Coordinating Unit*

It is well known that South Caucasus region is inhabited with proud, self-respected nations with a rich history and culture. Exactly, the Caucasian self-esteem is an ambition that does not allow us to be inferior neighbours of Europe and gives us moral incentives to respond European challenges in the European integration process properly.

In this regard, the new European initiative – ENP – acquires significant importance, which, alongside other benefits, gives us the hope, that traditional neighbourly relations will be restored in South Caucasus and this region will become a very attractive and significant part of the whole “European House”.

Each of the three South Caucasian countries has its own resources and arguments for active engagement in the process of European integration.

For Georgia, this, first of all, means a cultural and mental self-identification with the European civilization, as well as a firm desire to belong to the European family. No one in Georgia has ever doubted that the Black Sea, rather than dividing, connects their country with Europe.

That is why the Black Sea Basin Cooperation Programme becomes especially important for South Caucasus region, and hopefully will play a crucial role in sustainable economic and social development of this region.

The government and population of Georgia have the common vision about the necessity of successful European integration process for the purposes of ensuring the future development of the country.

No doubt, that ENP, as the complex foundation for such development, first of all becomes a basis for a common national optimism. At the same time, success of its role as a catalyst for “Europization” of the country greatly depends on the flexibility and effectiveness of Georgian-European cooperation.

This relates to procedural mechanisms of planning and implementation of national, as well as regional programmes, in order to ensure that the measures designed within the framework of the concrete instrument remain essential for the moment of its implementation.

In order to make ENP more intensive and more effective catalyst, it would be reasonable to pay more attention to the inter-regional cooperation which will reveal new and effective opportunities for establishment of European values in the countries of South Caucasus region...

First of all it responds to new political reality, called by the president of Lithuania, Mr. Adamkus as the “New Silk Road”, particularly the perspectives of diverse cooperation of countries of the three Seas – Baltic, Black and Caspian. This perspective undoubtedly is interesting due to economic, as well as cultural peculiarities of these regions.

*President,
European Integration,
Armenia*

European integration has been promulgated as a top priority in the foreign policy of Armenia, but first, we need to understand what “European integration” means. There are numerous definitions of the concept, which is explained with a number of reasons. There are cases, when “European integration” is defined with specific political ambitions of the given political situation. Actually, it is rather challenging to provide a general definition of the concept. I will try to explain what we understand by “European integration”. I think it symbolizes Armenia’s relations with four institutions: OSCE, Council of Europe, EU and NATO, plus bilateral relations with European countries. Though European integration is claimed to be a priority, the corresponding actions could have been much more comprehensive.

We should clearly understand that there is no process which is unilateral. If Europe is implementing a neighborhood policy, it clearly pursues its interests. What are these interests? Let’s remember that ENP directly derives from the last concept paper on EU security. With this document the European Union preferred the “soft” option, i.e. “If I don’t want to feel threatened by my neighbor, he should understand and experience that my affluence is based on his affluence. Therefore, if you build relations with your neighbor based on the value system which you both share; moreover, if you assist him by opening your doors to him, it means your neighbor should be interested in your affluence”. This is the interest of the European Union.

But this is only one of the EU interests, the one that is made public. There is yet another issue that concerns theorists and philosophers, but has not yet been framed into any document. Let’s not forget that the most developed countries of the Western Europe face a demographic challenge today. They are dying nations and the European culture is threatened in many regards. Consequently, from where can Europe anticipate an inflow of specialists and

new ideas, in the result of which it can eliminate or reduce this risk? It is important for Europe to ensure inflow of values and ideas from countries, where on one hand, there is commonality of value systems and on the other, the rule of law has not turned into an end in itself.

Armenia does not have any other alternative but the development towards Europe, and even if one is offered, it will be an invented one. It is clear that connecting our value system with the Organization of the Islamic Conference or the Arab League is not realistic to put it softly. There is little in common with the South or the South-East. This does not exclude very good relations with them, but I think we cannot be in the same system.

The second option is, for instance, CIS. With due understanding of the importance of Armenian-Russian relations and the significance of the strategic partnership, I still believe that in case of CIS one should realize that it is not a development institution. Just remember what the President of Russia, the key state in the CIS, said about it: "CIS is simply a divorce institution". In this case it becomes clear that development leads to the west. Two questions come forward. Can one develop in isolation? I believe the answer is self-explanatory. Isolated development in this globalized world is simply impossible. Second, is this so-called "west" so united? Naturally, no. In terms of publicly promulgated value system the USA and Europe can appear similar. However, this is the level of public statements. A state of a new nation, which in this case the US is, cannot be compared with a union of nation-states. Therefore, if we consider ourselves to be a nation-state, we should feel more affinity towards the union of nation-states which is based on a shared value system, than towards the other option. Consequently, development towards Europe is the only way which will allow us to find our place in this globalizing world and keep developing. Finally, one should not forget that without a national identity we have no room in spacious Europe.

Membership to ENP is both an opportunity and a challenge for our country. There are 17 countries in the program, among which five are so-called "countries with European environment", namely Armenia, Georgia, Azerbaijan, Ukraine and Moldova, whereas the remaining 12 belong to the Mediterranean basin. At first sight it seems that the starting conditions for ENP are different, and incidentally, they are better for the first five. Especially today, when there are talks about the possibility of another format: ENP+. The latter will provide better opportunities to these five countries. Naturally, this is an opportunity which can ensure significant progress if appropriately used.

Besides, Armenia has a very interesting peculiarity, which can turn it into a crucial factor among these countries. With the exception of our issues with Azerbaijan, we have very good relations with Ukraine, Moldova and Georgia, which is the result of the common Soviet legacy. In addition, thanks to the Diaspora our country has unique relations with the other ENP countries in the Mediterranean Basin.

Regarding challenges: having a general policy for all 17 countries, the European Union emphasizes individualization, signing a specific Action Plan with each member, based on the specifics of the given country. This allows countries to compete.

The second competitive issue is the implementation of the plan. The country that has badly implemented the Action Plan may be left out of a number of processes, which may result in the isolation of that country.

Accession and neighborhood are very different things. All the officials of the European Union do not lose any opportunity to stress that being a member of the European Neighborhood does not guarantee a membership to the EU and does not exclude formulation of a membership request in future. Being involved in the neighborhood policy and addressing issues regarding this policy in general and more specifically issues highlighted in the Action Plan, it is not excluded that in future we will have a more sound ground for applying for EU membership. However, these two programs do not link directly. There are clearly defined standards for EU accession: the Copenhagen standards, among which the level of country's economic development has a significant role. I don't think that these two processes can be directly linked, but I am certain in one thing: moving in this direction our country will be more prepared for EU accession.

Certainly, one can reflect on the shortcomings of the ENP, but it should be remembered that the society which actually should act as the owner of this process in general is not well informed of the European integration and more specifically, of the ENP. When this issue is addressed, only then can one discuss the shortcomings.

Armenia's ENP Action Plan and specifically the activities included in the plan are far from the ideal. The project at times gets declarative, whereas this plan should have specifically highlighted the activities which must have been implemented this year. The standards and criteria based on which the effectiveness of the implemented activities should have been evaluated are not clarified as well.

One should also remember that ENP differs from a number of other projects funded by foreign donors with its monitoring and evaluation mechanisms. The monitoring instrument is not clearly defined. Yet this can be considered an opportunity for the civil society to work out and implement this mechanism through its institutions, but not only and not so much as evaluators of the activities of their country, but as supporters and partners of the decision makers in this process.

In our opinion, three dimensions are important for effective monitoring: first, the government should have its own monitoring mechanism in place, categorized according to its officials who are responsible for this or the other aspect of the ENP, since this will allow it to amend shortcomings. Second, the EU, as one of the project implementers, should have its own mechanism. This monitoring should mean something for the EU. It can point out the shortcomings it has noticed to the national government or keep those as competitive cards. There should be a third player with these two, targeting the society. I refer to the civil society institutions.

While implementing the ENP it would be right to define a clear target, namely strive for pre- or full membership.

The role of the EU, the OSCE, the CoE and NATO in promotion of Democratic Traditions / European Values and Commitments – The role of Elections in Promoting Democracy (How Armenian commitments towards the EU, the CoE and OSCE assist in improving the political/ democratic climate)

The role of the EU, the OSCE, the CoE and NATO in promotion of Democratic Traditions / European Values and Commitments – The role of Elections in Promoting Democracy (How Armenian commitments towards the EU, the CoE and OSCE assist in improving the political/ democratic climate)

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I feel very honoured to address this audience here today on EU relations with Armenia, in particular as regards the Union's long-standing / continuing role in promoting European values and democratic development in this country.

The time we have today is far too short to do justice to this important topic since to properly describe the Union's role in this context would require an overview of EU-Armenian relations since their outset.

“Democracy” aspects of the development of EU-Armenian relations

This can be divided into 3 main phases:

As you all know, EU-Armenian relations only began with Armenia's independence, shortly after the breakdown of the Soviet Union. Since then, they have grown steadily.

In the first phase of our relationship (early to mid-1990s), our cooperation was very much concentrated on the most urgent needs, i.e. mitigating the immediate effects of economic transition and the detrimental effects of the conflicts in the region.

Rather than stressing human rights in this respect , I would just recall that the main focus of our cooperation during this period was on more basic issues, with a lot of our assistance provided in the form of “Humanitarian Aid”.

The initial focus broadened then quickly, and it emerged that a new relationship was needed, more based on partnership, since Armenia's economy was moving quite fast to recover from the shock of transition.

In the next phase, as a major step forward in EU-Armenian relations, a Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA) was concluded between the EU and Armenia. It was signed in 1996, came into force in 1999, and remains until today the fundamental contractual basis of our relationship. Examination of the text will already show a broad range of content, including chapters on cooperation relating to democracy and human rights.

At that stage, and to some extent still today, the EU relied on the expertise of other specialized organizations in this field, such as the OSCE and the CoE. The EU's efforts in this respect were therefore not always very visible, since we mostly stayed in the background, providing the financing to promote democratic development and greater respect for human rights.

But this does not, however, mean that we did not have a say in the process. From the outset, we discussed and decided common programs with CoE on an annual basis, as we continue to this day – a practice that not only works very well but is also, as far as we can see, highly appreciated by the Armenian Government.

However, things changed tremendously when we finally entered the third phase in EU-Armenian relations. The inclusion of Armenia into the European Neighbourhood Policy has given a different, much more intense dimension to our relationship.

We already heard here today that ENP was created in the context of the last round of accessions to the European Union, as the EU, also in its own interest, sought to create a zone of prosperity, stability and security of countries sharing the same values.

Through the ENP, the EU offers its neighbours deeper political and economic integration in return for concrete political and economic reforms undertaken by neighbourhood countries and greater approximation with EU legal and administrative standards, as well as towards commonly shared European values in the field of democracy, human rights and fundamental freedoms.

With the adoption of the EU-Armenia ENP Action Plan on November 14 2006, relations with Armenia have therefore definitely moved into a new and much

more intensive phase. Our relationship has gained a much stronger political momentum.

As is evident from the priorities of the Five Year ENP Action Plan agreed between the EU and Armenia. These priorities have been commonly developed and agreed between the EU and the Government of Armenia, and focus very much on further democratic development, on human rights, rule of law and good governance, since – as in all other transition countries – these are the main challenges remaining after mastering the most urgent and pressing needs of transition.

We are using the ENP Action Plan as a guiding policy document to re-shape and better concentrate our relationship over the next couple of years.

On the EU side, we have tried to create some incentives to support the path of reforms in the country: Apart from the new partnership perspectives listed in detail in the ENP Action Plan, we have also increased our assistance, and, in order to particularly promote further democratic development, we have introduced a new “governance facility”. This facility allows for additional financial allocations to countries which have made the most progress in implementing the governance priorities of their ENP Action Plans.

In my view, these incentives will help all colleagues here – whether from the OSCE, CoE or NGOs - to continue their work in further promoting democracy and helping create conditions for better respect for human rights and fundamental rights in Armenia.

And, Ladies and Gentlemen,

In my opinion, Armenia is not doing badly in working on these remaining challenges in the first year of implementation of its ENP Action Plan.

We are now beginning to work on the first ENP Progress Report, examining in greater depth what has been achieved in Armenia during the year.

We can see that many efforts have begun and are continuing. In many areas, Armenia is in the first or second phase of reforms towards ensuring better separation of powers and better democratic development e.g. efforts to reform the judiciary and to improve local self-government. Training is also ongoing on better awareness-raising on democracy and for human rights. OSCE and CoE are providing support e.g. with improved and intensified

training for civil servants and the police, to mention just a few of the ongoing changes.

We are aware of work going on in many areas, most of them indicated in our joint ENP Action Plan and many of them supported by EC assistance.

Elections

One decisive test for Armenia was the parliamentary elections held earlier this year which, as you know, were considered by international observers - including a group from the European Parliament- to have widely corresponded to international standards and, as such, to be an important step towards strengthening democratic structures in Armenia.

Role of the European Parliament

The European Parliament has - in any case - always played a very prominent role in following governance issues in all our partner countries. Our parliamentarians continue to raise their voices whenever there is a reason to comment on or complain about democracy and human rights issues.

And they will certainly visit again and hopefully note further improvements in Armenia during the presidential elections to be held on February 19, 2008.

Role of NGOs

And finally, let me stress the role of NGOs in this process i.e. to discuss and follow the process of democratic development. This role is indeed a very important one and, in the ENP context, especially useful in raising better awareness and in helping to monitor many processes and thus supporting the development of Armenia into a more prosperous, democratic and stable country.

To complete the picture from the EU point of view, let me therefore finally also mention our European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights. Its objective is to work with, for and through civil society organisations, defending fundamental freedoms and helping civil society to become an effective force for dialogue, democratic reform and defence of human rights. In this way, this EC instrument is especially interesting for much of the audience here today, since it complements the new generation of “geographical” programmes which focus primarily on public institutions and reforms. EI-

DHR can support many of you in your daily efforts to improve matters within your country.

Conclusion

However, in conclusion, I would like to stress that democracy is indeed a very complex matter, which takes time and requires patience. It is certainly a process which takes many years, I would say it is even a permanent challenge.

Drawing from another speech, made recently by Armenian President Kocharian, I would therefore fully agree that “transformation of a society is always a difficult road” and that “despite significant positive changes there is still much to do” in Armenia.

However, as an optimist, I always prefer to see the glass as “half full” rather than “half empty”. Therefore, I would also subscribe to the following : that Armenia has a solid vision of goals to be reached, it has the right understanding that they can be achieved only through reforms, and it has the political will to implement those reforms. And this is what matters in the end.

Thank you for your attention.

European values and commitments: The general importance of the abstract concepts of human rights, rule of law and pluralistic democracy is perhaps not immediately evident in our everyday lives, because there is a tendency to take these concepts for granted. However, these principles should be taken very seriously because – unfortunately - the contemporary world shows many examples of erosion of basic values and fundamental rights. Europe is not spared in this respect. We see journalists fall victim to contract killings, voices in high places raised in favour of bringing back the death penalty. As Secretary General Terry Davis has recently pointed out, the abolition of the death penalty is still unfinished business even in Europe, because there are many Europeans who are still in favour of capital punishment. What needs to be done is to explain to people why the death penalty is wrong, why it has been abolished, and why it should remain abolished. In general, that is why it is so important to remain vigilant about the basic human values which must underpin our societies.

Historical background of accession of Armenia: Following a debate in the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), the following recommendation was made by the PACE Political Affairs committee: In view of their cultural links with Europe, Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia can apply provided they clearly indicate their will to be considered as part of Europe. All three countries applied for membership in 1996, with Georgia joining in 1999, and Armenia and Azerbaijan joining at the same time, in January 2001.

Council of Europe commitments provide a series of consistent benchmarks which should be used to check progress in democratic reforms and serve as a guideline, and provide points for a continued dialogue between the CoE and the new member State. Commitments on Armenia's accession included ratifying key conventions and embarking on a process of political and legislative reforms: judiciary, media pluralism, local self-government reform, electoral legislation. Also, though not an easy or straightforward process, constitutional reform in Armenia has been very important, and the Council of Europe's Venice Commission has had a key advisory role which led to the adoption in 2005 of a revised constitution which lifted the obstacles to further democratic reforms.

Importance of cooperation between the CoE and EU: The cooperation of the two organisations is evident in Joint Programmes which are being implemented in the South Caucasus and Ukraine, in particular – Fostering a Culture of Human Rights (training of various officials related to human rights principles, including the European Convention on Human Rights) and Promoting the Democratic Process. Further joint programmes are under discussion, for example in the areas of judicial reform – a new Programme called Access to the Chain of Justice could be launched for Armenia in the near future.

In many areas, Armenia **has made progress**. Abolition of death penalty is extremely important to CoE. Armenia has achieved this milestone, and has ratified many key Conventions, accepted different treaty-based monitoring mechanisms, and reformed the Constitution and a number of laws with the advice of CoE experts. The Ombudsman institution is taking hold. Still, legislative reform is just part of the process – good faith and consistent implementation of the laws is crucial. As important as the previous steps have been, it will take further political determination and courage to fulfil what remains to be done: continue to strive for free and fair elections, to ensure that laws which have been enacted are actually implemented, and to further develop a culture of human rights.

Elections: free and fair elections are a basic feature of a functioning democracy. The CoE together with ODIHR, EP and OSCE PA have observed elections (both presidential and parliamentary) in Armenia. The next presidential elections in Armenia will be another touchstone for Armenian democracy, and a further important test for the country. Although there were many improvements in the parliamentary elections last spring, the international observers nevertheless noted several areas which still require attention.

To address these areas, the CoE developed, in consultation with our Armenian partners and in coordination with international organisations (in particular, the international working group on elections chaired by the OSCE Office in Yerevan), **an Action Plan for pre-electoral assistance in view of the presidential elections**. This plan was devised to have a lasting impact, beyond the presidential elections. It contains four components – First, strengthening the capacities of the electoral administration to prepare and manage the electoral process. Second, enhancing the capacity of the media to ensure free, independent and unbiased coverage of the pre-election campaign and of the elections themselves. Third, organising activities to raise the awareness of the electorate. And fourth, to assist in the improvement of

the legislation dealing with financing of political parties and electoral campaigns. Several activities in this Action Plan have already been completed and others are under way. I would like to highlight, in particular, a series of training seminars for editors and reports on balanced coverage of elections and workshops for the public broadcaster – these activities have been financed through Joint Programmes with the European Commission.

Reconciliation principle as inspiration for Council of Europe, which was formed after WW II. The Germany-France example shows that reconciliation is possible and essential to stability and prosperity. The reconciliation principle played a decisive part in the simultaneous accession of Armenia and Azerbaijan, which undertook to resolve the Nagorno Karabakh conflict by peaceful means. This was actually one of the commitments these two States made on accession, and we cannot ignore it - it is still as valid now as it was then. The need to reconcile with neighbours was the key message given by Secretary General Terry Davis on his official visit to Armenia on 5 November 2007.

Regional cooperation: This is of course dampened by conflicts and closed borders.

In Europe, as in other continents, culture is sometimes diverted from its purpose to justify intercultural and inter-religious conflicts. Although cultural policy cannot solve all society's problems, the Council of Europe is convinced that culture, being an excellent means of communication, is a factor that must be taken into account both in the prevention of conflict situations and in post-conflict social reconciliation. The Kyiv Initiative is a regional and multilateral project of cultural co-operation, which encompasses the three South Caucasus States, as well as Moldova and Ukraine. Its objective is to contribute through action and policies in culture and heritage to the democratic development and dialogue in the countries. This initiative aims to reinforce cultural exchanges among the South Caucasus countries and with other European countries, and building mutual understanding and democratic stability in region.

Conclusion: The Council of Europe, by bringing the Caucasus States into the European family, is continuing to pursue its mission of committing its members to pluralistic democracy, human rights, and the rule of law by standard setting and a comprehensive political cooperation structure. In this we appreciate the support of our partners.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As a representative of the OSCE in Armenia, I would like to contribute to today's conference by shortly outlining what are the existing commitments for democratic elections in OSCE participating states, and in Armenia as one of them.

I chose this topic because the way elections are administered and conducted is one of the most reliable barometers of a state's level of democratic maturity. For those states which see their development in a European perspective, it is an indicator of the degree of advancement on the path leading to closer European integration.

At this stage, I would like to introduce a caveat. From an OSCE standpoint, the existing commitments for democratic elections are not primarily aimed at promoting European integration and possible EU accession. They constitute an agreed set of principles enabling states belonging to the OSCE sphere to adhere to and accept to be bound by a common system of values. Democratic values. Once this is understood, one may add that verified and systematic compliance with these principles may act as a powerful engine speeding up the process of European integration and, for those who wish it, leaving the EU membership option on the table as a long-term policy objective.

If we were to look for an OSCE document that would represent an extensive and coherent statement of principles with respect to elections, it would certainly be the Copenhagen Document of the Conference for Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), adopted in 1990.

The Copenhagen Document was the first political agreement among sovereign states to institutionalize election observation by extending a standing

invitation for OSCE states to observe each other's electoral proceedings. In this sense, it is a landmark document expressing a political commitment.

The adoption of the Copenhagen Document is the culmination of a process that can be traced back to the adoption in 1975 of the Helsinki Final Act which established the CSCE, later renamed into the OSCE. Although there was no mention of elections in the Helsinki Final Act, this document contained ten principles, the so-called Decalogue, of which Principle VII addressed respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, including freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief. Fifteen years passed before the principle could be translated into a set of political commitments through the Copenhagen Document.

The Copenhagen Document is generally acknowledged to be one of the most important and comprehensive international formulation of principles for democratic elections. Designed for a broad region extending from North America through Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, its validity has been recognized worldwide. Though not a specifically election-related document, it records wide-ranging commitments by participating states to the holding of elections that are universal, accountable, transparent, secret, free, fair and equal – in one word, democratic.

The specifically election-related commitments are set forth in Paragraphs 6 to 8. Paragraph 7 in particular identifies nine specific commitments to which the participating states have agreed. They are the following ones:

1. Hold free elections at reasonable intervals.
2. Permit all seats in at least one chamber of the national legislature to be freely contested in a popular vote.
3. Guarantee universal and equal suffrage to adult citizens.
4. Ensure that votes are cast by secret ballot and that they are counted and reported honestly with the official results made public.
5. Respect the right of citizens to seek political or public office, individually or as representatives of political parties or organizations, without discrimination.
6. Respect the right of individuals and groups to establish, in full freedom, their own political parties or other political organizations and provide them

with the necessary legal guarantees enabling them to compete with each other on a basis of equal treatment before the law and by the authorities.

7. Ensure that law and public policy work to permit political campaigning to be conducted in a fair and free atmosphere in which neither administrative action, violence nor intimidation bars the parties and the candidates from freely presenting their views and qualifications, or prevents the voters from learning and discussing them or from casting their vote free of fear of retribution.

8. Provide that no legal or administrative obstacles stands in the way of unimpeded access to the media on a non-discriminatory basis for all political groupings and individuals wishing to participate in the electoral process.

9. Ensure that candidates who obtain the necessary number of votes required by law are duly installed in office and are permitted to remain in office until their term expires or is otherwise brought to an end in a manner that is regulated by law in conformity with democratic parliamentary and constitutional procedures.

A key strength of the Copenhagen Document is that for the first time, all OSCE participating states asserted their commitment to pluralistic democracy and the rule of law as preconditions of proper respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. In fact, one could see the adoption of the Copenhagen Document as a turning point, connecting election-related commitments to the broader human dimension commitments.

The applicability of these nine commitments was further strengthened in 1991 by the so-called Moscow Document, through which the participating states agreed that human dimension commitments were matters of direct and legitimate concern to all participating states and were not exclusively subject to the internal authority of the state concerned.

In this sense, the electoral commitments of the Copenhagen Document, combined with the Moscow Document, symbolise “shared” values. Shared because they are a blueprint for the democratic development of every OSCE participating state, but also because they affirm that such development is of interest to all.

Thank you.

*Chairman of the Armenian Center for
Transatlantic Initiatives (ACTI)
Director, NATO Information Office,
Armenia*

**Democratic Institution Building Is
an Essential Part of Armenia's IPAP**

Democratic institution building is an essential part of Armenia's Individual Partnership Action Plan (IPAP) with NATO that was adopted almost 2 years ago.

In this document Armenia committed itself to make further progress in democratic reform, human rights, the rule of law, transparency, and the fight against corruption. Armenia also stated its readiness to proceed with electoral and legal reforms with the aim of conforming fully to internationally recognized standards.

NATO is indeed closely following the implementation of those commitments. In May 2007 NATO Secretary General noted "with satisfaction that the parliamentary elections in Armenia were considered by international monitors to be largely in accordance with Armenia's OSCE and Council of Europe commitments".

However, as the NATO Secretary General's Special Representative for Central Asia and South Caucasus Robert Simmons said "there remains significant work to do, the international observers have noted a number of shortcomings and these will need to be addressed effectively".

Defense reforms that are underway in Armenia within the Individual Partnership Action Plan with NATO are very important component of the democratic transition. The main objectives of this reform are increasing the transparency of the Armed Forces, bringing more civilians to the Defense Ministry, establishing mechanisms of civilian control over the military, making the defense spending more open and transparent. Implementing all this requires a lot of political will from the authorities.

We are now at a stage where the next steps have to be taken towards a Strategic Defense Review (SDR). This is a really challenging task for the country as the Strategic Defense Review will be a document that has to shape the vision of the future Armenian Armed Forces for a 20-25 year period.

People in NATO describe the elaboration of this document “as very important and very difficult” and note that not all NATO member-states were capable of producing a high-quality Strategic Defense Review. If Armenia will succeed in proceeding with the SDR in 2 years, as it is stated in the IPAP, it will be a major success.

For dealing with Strategic Defence Review relevant tools are needed and NATO has proposed to the Armenian Defense Ministry to create a unit that will be engaged in military planning and developing such tools and mechanisms. This is needed to be done not to waste the results that will come up as a result of the SDR and to ensure that the necessary processes will take place irrespective of who will be ruling at the Ministry of Defense.

**ENP Available Tools for Promotion of Local Reforms:
New Stage for Cooperation between State Institutions
and Civil Society**

*Deputy Minister of Trade and Economic
Development of the Republic of Armenia*

**What Instruments Can ENP Provide
for Promotion of Local Reforms? A
New Phase for Cooperation between
State Institutions and Civil Society**

Dear participants, guests, ladies and gentlemen,

Taking this opportunity I would like to thank the organizers of this conference, welcome all the participants and wish all of us fruitful and effective work.

Inclusion of Armenia into the framework of the European Neighbourhood Policy was a historical event for the country from all the perspectives: political, geographical and economic. It strengthened political and economic ties between Armenia and the European Union. It allowed the European Union and Armenia to develop much closer relations, extending beyond the cooperation framework and including significant economic integration and a more profound political cooperation. Armenia definitely takes advantage of this opportunity to promote mutual relations, stability, security and prosperity.

ENP provides instruments which significantly contribute to the process of approximation of Armenian legislation, norms and standards to those of the European Union. This becomes an incentive for internal reforms, transferring cooperation between state institutions and civil society into a qualitatively new dimension.

In this context internal reforms create sound foundations for further economic integration, based on the rules and norms in compliance with the European standards of economy and trade. These certainly will boost trade, investment and economic growth.

I would like to emphasize one thing: policies and activities developed with the help of ENP instruments are in line with the Action Program of the RA Government and will contribute to the economic growth, harmonization of

social co-existence, alleviation of poverty and protection of the environment, thus contributing to the long-term sustainability.

Armenia has always adhered to the open door policy and will continue doing so. It sees its future as a full member of the harmonious commonwealth of civilized countries. Armenia is ready to continue the implementation of the reforms adopted earlier and to promote liberalism. Currently all the necessary internal political prerequisites are there in order for Armenia to consistently continue liberal economic reforms.

In the present era of globalization no country that follows internationally accepted norms and standards and strives for integration with the global economy should or can constrain itself into its own borders. On the contrary, it should make every effort possible to participate in the process of international labour distribution and development of transnational economy.

Being located on the so-called 'corridors' or crossroad between Europe and Asia, Armenia has a great opportunity to become one of the most important transition countries on the region.

I am certain that in compliance with current developments in the global economy, the 21st century will be the time of economic integration of Armenia with European countries. We can already see the necessity of new developments in spheres such as integration of communication systems, development of relevant infrastructures and most importantly, of ensuring free flow of goods, services, labour force and capital, which are typical to civilized countries.

Through implementation of the RA Government Action Program we should turn the dynamic economic growth into sustainable development, towards the development of a knowledge-based economy, which will be based on the intensive use of serious achievements of the existing scientific and technological progress.

Let me welcome the conference participants once again, thank you all for participation and wish for comprehensive work, with expectations of positive outcomes.

Dear colleagues,

I would like to present to you the three major components of my speech, which are as follows:

- Instruments used within the framework of the New Neighborhood Policy, their significance for reforms and new developments;
- Principles of cooperation among state institutions and civil society;
- Forms and mechanisms of civic society participation

Instruments being used in Armenia within the framework of the New Neighborhood Policy are the following:

a. Budget support

RA Ministries of Science and Education and of Labor and Social Affairs have accomplished the budget support prerequisites provided in the framework of the Action Program for 2006 and on December 7, 2007 seven million Euros will be transferred to the RA state budget. Currently the budget support prerequisites to be provided within the framework of the Action Plan for 2007 are being discussed. These prerequisites refer to the sphere of vocational education and training. For effective implementation of these prerequisites it is planned to make appropriate allocations to this sphere within the state budget for 2008.

b. TWINNING and TAIEX

For the effective use of TWINNING and TAIEX instruments, three new positions have been added to the Department of Coordination of Technical As-

sistance at the RA Ministry of Finances and Economy. All the ministries and state institutions have assigned a staff responsible for the implementation of these instruments. In October, 2007 an informative seminar was organized for the above-mentioned staff, during which they were presented with all the relevant information regarding these instruments. In addition, on November 27 a working discussion was held devoted to the start-up of the TWINNING project, during which the staff at the European Commission responsible for this instrument presented it to the Armenian public.

An informative seminar on TAIEX was conducted in March 2007 and around 50 representatives of state institutions participated in the event. All the recommendations regarding TAIEX were accepted, which is the result of the consistent work with the beneficiaries, initiated by the staff of the Department of Coordination of EU Technical Assistance.

c. Cross Border Cooperation

Armenia, being situated in the Black Sea region for cross border cooperation, currently participates in the development of Joint Work Plan for the Countries of the Black Sea Region. The joint management body has introduced the project to the European Union for ratification. Its ratification will be followed by signing a memorandum on relevant financing.

d. Technical Assistance

Currently there are a number of technical assistance projects being implemented with the financial support of TACIS. Within the framework of the National Action Program for 2006 it is planned to implement two projects which have high level of political significance for Armenia. One is aimed at supporting the country in successful implementation of the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA) and the second is directed towards the new reforms in the justice system.

In future budget support projects will also include small components of technical assistance.

e. Currently negotiations are held with the European Investment Bank in order to ensure all the legal aspects necessary for its involvement in the economic development projects of Armenia.

Principles of cooperation between the state institutions and civil society are the following:

1. Transparency
2. Participation
3. Accountability
4. Rationality of actions
5. Predictability

These principles do not only define the cooperation between the public and civil sectors, but are also the guarantees of any reformation process.

The forms and mechanisms of civil society participation in reformation processes are the following:

- Participation in decision making;
- Definition of agenda and issues; formulation of interests;
- Research and consultancy regarding reforms and policies;
- Public awareness activities;
- Conferences, seminars and round tables;
- Other direct and indirect mechanisms.

The use of these mechanisms with governing institutions will allow becoming more cooperative and constructive, thus making reforms more effective.

Thank you!

*Ambassador, Head of Delegation,
EC Delegation to Georgia and Armenia*

The UK is a strong supporter of the European Neighbourhood Policy. This Conference is an important opportunity for exchanging views on the challenges and opportunities for Armenia on the ENP; and for exploring how best the Armenian Government, the European Commission, EU members such as the UK, donors working in Armenia and civil society can help implement the ENP.

We see the ENP as a valuable and successful tool for deepening political cooperation and economic integration between the EU and its neighbours and for promoting security and stability by addressing development, environment, non-proliferation and counter-terrorism issues. We are keen to keep up momentum on strengthening the Neighbourhood Policy such as in the areas of trade and economic integration and are keen to ensure that the ENP delivers - and is seen to deliver - concrete results of tangible benefit to citizens both in the neighbourhood and in the EU.

We believe progress in the ENP is firmly rooted in the jointly agreed Action Plans and their implementation and would emphasise the importance of ensuring an inclusive and participatory approach to implementing these Plans particularly the involvement of civil society.

We welcome the EC's new European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI) which will provide an average of €24.6m a year to Armenia between now and 2010. The UK provides a substantial share of EC money -- 17.4%, so we can roughly say the UK provides €4.3m of the funds spent in Armenia by the EC -- and we are keen to ensure that this money is spent as effectively as possible in support of Action Plan priorities to enable the Government to accomplish its reform agenda.

DFID has been working in Armenia since 1997. In early 2006 Armenia gained lower middle income status (LMIC), and this, together with the flows of income from other sources led DFID to take the decision to phase out its bilateral programme by the end of 2008. DFID's financial support to bilateral programmes during 2007/08 financial year is £3.4 million. The UK government will continue its support to Armenia through the multilateral channels, particularly through the European Commission.

2. DFID in Armenia has been working at the national level and within the framework of the poverty reduction strategy supporting the Armenian government to achieve the MDGs. In the strategic period 2003-2007 DFID has focused on public sector reform, public finance management reform and regional development. All three areas are around effective governance and crucial for poverty reduction. We would welcome Commission focus on these areas, where a certain progress has been made, yet further assistance through the ENPI would accomplish the reform process started by the Government.

The UK priorities for the ENP are trade and economic integration, energy issues and climate change, good governance; and tackling terrorism and extremism and other global issues beyond the EU's borders.

The UK endorses the ENP as an enlargement-neutral policy. We do not see it as a substitute for membership. The door to membership remains open to Eastern ENP partners, under Article 49 of the EU Treaty. In the absence of a membership perspective, ENP is the best - and most effective - tool we have for promoting security and prosperity, and cooperation with and integration into certain EU policies and programmes.

Energy cooperation and energy security are high priorities. ENP structures should support the implementation of the EU Energy Action Plan, agreed at the March 2007 Spring European Council, particularly on the extension of EU market principles to ENP states.

We attach great importance to energy security and diversity – we see markets as the driving force to achieve these, so would welcome Commission focus on those programmes which build up EU market principles in ENP countries and also support development of energy infrastructure along commercial lines.

We welcome the new financing instrument (ENPI), and creation of the Governance Facility (GF) and the Neighbourhood Investment Facility (NIF). We are concerned to ensure the GF allocation process is clear and objective and

its allocation decisions are an integral part of dialogue between the Commission and Partner country on Action Plan progress. Finally, we support the idea of a Neighbourhood Investment Facility (NIF) as a potentially useful tool to help enhance the investment climate.

I hope that today's conference will be a great success.

APPENDIXES

**Power Point Presentations
made during Conference**

Mr. Radoslaw Wegrzyn

**Project Manager, Institution Building, TAIEX, TWINNING,
(TAIEX contact person for Armenia)**



The TAIEX Instrument of the European Commission

(Technical Assistance and Information
Exchange Instrument)

Radoslaw Wegrzyn
radoslaw.wegrzyn@ec.europa.eu

Mission Statement

support beneficiary countries in
understanding, transposing, implementing
and applying EU policies, legislation, rules –
the *acquis*

Beneficiaries

- Post-accession assistance: Bulgaria and Romania
- Pre-accession assistance: Candidate countries; Western Balkans
- Turkish Cypriot community
- Countries covered by the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI)

European Commission DG Enlargement
Institution Building Unit

TAIEX as instrument for ENP and Russia

- Legal basis: Council Decision 2006/62/CE
- Aims:
 - support implementation of priorities defined by Action Plans, Association Agreements or Roadmaps
 - address objectives identified in ongoing structured dialogue

European Commission DG Enlargement
Institution Building Unit

General Mandate

- Assist partner countries in understanding and drafting legislation harmonised with the *acquis* and related to the priorities of the Action Plans
- Help partner countries with implementation and enforcement

European Commission DG Enlargement
Institution Building Unit

The *acquis communautaire*

The *acquis* is the body of common rights and obligations that is binding on all the Member States of the European Union

For the purpose of TAIEX assistance we mainly refer to the legislation adopted pursuant to the Treaties, particularly in the form of:

- Directives
- Regulations
- Decisions

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Main forms of assistance

- Seminars/Workshops
- Expert Missions
- Study Visits

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Beneficiary Groups

- Central Administrations
- Parliament
- Judiciary/Law Enforcement
- Private Sector Associations
- Social Partners

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Expertise

- Mobilised experts are almost exclusively Member States' public-sector officials
- Commission's and other EU Institutions' officials often involved

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Activation

- Requests are primarily generated by the beneficiary countries
- Suggestions from Commission services are also considered

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How to apply

- **Application forms** available via the web-site <http://taiex.ec.europa.eu>
- **Letter, fax, e-mail** (under the condition that the basic information requested in the application form is provided)

European Commission DG Enlargement
Institution Building Unit

Who decides?

- All applications are submitted for opinion to the National Contact Point, the EC Delegation and the competent Commission services
- The Institution Building Unit of DG Enlargement, managing the TAIEX instrument, takes the final decision

European Commission DG Enlargement
Institution Building Unit

How long does it take?

- TAIEX can quickly deliver the requested assistance
- From the submission of the application, a minimum of 4-5 weeks for the dispatching of an expert and of about 8 weeks for the organisation of a seminar

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Institution Building Unit

How much would it cost me?

- TAIEX covers all the costs related to the provision of its assistance
- TAIEX can consider the opportunity to co-organise events together with Institutional stakeholders and/or other donors

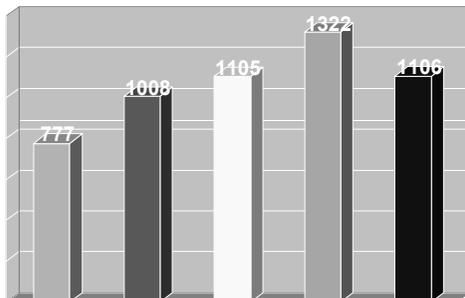
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Examples of organised events

- Seminar on payment fraud in the EU Member States, the EU Accession Countries & other European countries (Competent Ministries and Authorities, Banking Institutions; Brussels, April 2006)
- Expertise on risk management in financial institutions (Italian expert to Ankara, February 2006)
- Expertise on the establishment of a Translation coordination unit in Armenia (two Slovak experts, May 2006)

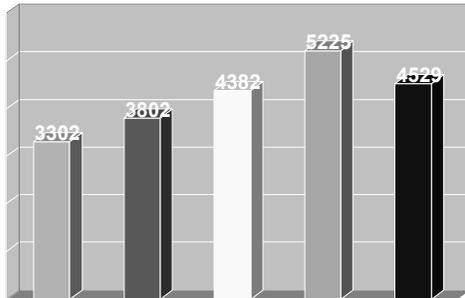
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TAIEX actions since 2002



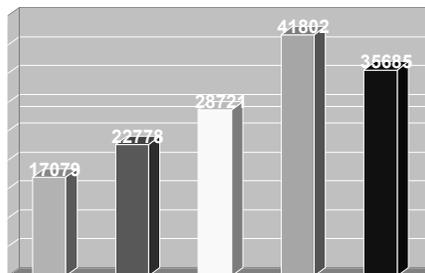
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Experts/Speakers at TAIEX activities



European Commission DG Enlargement
Institution Building Unit

Participants at TAIEX activities



European Commission DG Enlargement
Institution Building Unit

TAIEX in Armenia

Since October 2006 until today:

- 7 applications received
- 19 events organised
- 2 other events scheduled for January 2008

European Commission DG Enlargement
Institution Building Unit

Thank you.

For further information please visit our web-site at

<http://taiex.ec.europa.eu>

or

write to elarg-enp-taiex@ec.europa.eu

or

radoslaw.wegrzyn@ec.europa.eu

European Commission DG Enlargement
Institution Building Unit

Ms. Ruta Konstante
Adviser to Twinning PAO in Armenia

“TWINNING” PROJECTS

November 18, 2007
Yerevan, Armenia

Presentation Outline

1. Definition
 2. Historical development
 3. Main components
 4. Main principles
 5. Key players
 6. Twinning cycle
 7. Twinning Manual
-

Definition

- Twinning is a **cooperation tool** between a Public Administration in a Beneficiary country (in Armenia) and the equivalent institution in an EU Member State in a specific field

 - It aims at **upgrading /modernising** the institution of the Beneficiary country (of Armenia) through training, reorganization as well as drafting of laws and regulations modeled after the EU acquis
-

-
- It is a **joint project** covering a process, in which each partner takes its responsibility

 - This administrative cooperation project must yield **mandatory results:**
 - both project partners commit themselves to work towards a commonly agreed concrete result, which should be measurable and precise

 - Twinning projects are financed by the European Commission. The Beneficiary country (Armenia) contributes to the project with human resources, office space and training venues
-

A Twinning project includes:

- Secondment of a long-term EU Member State expert (Resident Twinning Adviser or RTA) to Armenia;
 - A number of medium and short term missions of EU Member State institution specialists to Armenia;
 - Trainings, seminars, workshops in Armenia
- The average duration of a Twinning project is between 12 and 24 months
-

TWINNING IS BEST SUITED FOR PROJECTS WHERE

- the goal is clear
 - sufficient political will exists in the Beneficiary country (in Armenia) to create the best possible conditions for reforms
 - the objectives can be better reached through joint actions between the EU Member State and the Beneficiary country (Armenia) institution rather than via classical technical assistance
-

Historical Development of the Twinning Instrument

Twinning tool was developed by the European Commission in 1997 in the context of EU enlargement as a new institutional instrument designed to integrate the EU legislation in the Beneficiary country's legislation

Countries eligible for the Twinning Instrument

- Countries of Central and Eastern Europe: since 1998 (PHARE programme)
 - Western Balkans: since 2002 (CARDS programme)
 - Mediterranean countries: since 2004 (MEDA programm)
 - New Independent States: since 2005 (TACIS programm)
-

ENP

- ❑ In 2004 the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) was developed
 - ❑ Its objective is build true partnership in order to share common values and policies
 - ❑ ENP stands on bilateral ENP Action Plans (between EU and the partner country) which sets out a programme of economical and political reforms with short and medium-term priorities
-

ENPI

- ❑ From January 2007 as part of the reform of EC assistance instruments, the MEDA and TACIS and various other programmes have been replaced by a single instrument - European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI).
 - ❑ Key objective of the ENPI - the promotion of political, economic and social reforms across the EU Neighbourhood
-

MAIN PRINCIPLES

Twinning project should be programmed on a "demand-driven" basis by the Beneficiary country

A Twinning project does not aim at replicating a particular EU Member State administrative system, but helps to introduce EU best practices in connection with Community legislation

MAIN PRINCIPLES

□ Twinning project:

- includes at least some elements of **approximation to the EU acquis**
 - entails elements of some **structural reform**
 - must solve **a systematic problem**
(not a conjunctural or episodal one)
 - at the end of the project a new or adapted system must be functioning in the Beneficiary country
-

Main players of a Twinning Project

A number of people and institutions (both - from the EU Member State and the Beneficiary country) are involved in a successful implementation, management and monitoring of a Twinning project

EU Member States participate in Twinning projects

because they are interested

to establish networks with practitioners in other EU Member States and other countries

to exchange best practices and experiences in a given field of expertise and learn from each other

to enhance their international presence

Project Leaders

EU Member State's Project Leader - MS Project Leader

A high-ranking official, who leads the implementation of the project and supports the Resident Twinning Adviser (RTA) assisting him/her in the implementation of the Twinning project in the BC

Beneficiary Country's Project Leader - BC Project Leader

A high-ranking official in the respective BC, who acts as the counterpart of the MS Project Leader and ensures in close co-operation the overall steering and co-ordination of the project from the BA side.

Resident Twinning Adviser - RTA

RTA

A civil servant from an EU MS administration to work and to be based in a BA for one year. RTA provides technical advice, assists the BA and is responsible for the day-to-day implementation of the Twinning project in the BC.

RTA Counterpart

The RTA Counterpart acts as the counterpart of the RTA from the side of the BA and ensures close co-operation in the day-to-day implementation of the twinning project.

Program Administration Office - PAO

PAO

An especially dedicated unit set up by the administration of the BC to retain in cooperation with the EC the overall coordination of Twinning projects

PAO Director

The PAO Director has an important role in the development and co-ordination of all Twinning activities in the BC and also in resolving any horizontal administrative obstacles in the BC during the implementation of the Twinning project

Contact Points

National Contact Point in a EU Member State – **NCP**

Each of the 27 EU MS has a NCP for Twinning, who acts as a single interlocutor for the EC. He/she is the central point of communication between the EC and the EU MS in the promotion, development and co-ordination of all Twinning activities.

Focal Point in the Beneficiary Administration – **FP**

Each BA appoints a FP, who ensures the interface between the BA, the PAO, the EC and the EU MS Twinning partner.

European Commission

The EC acts as a facilitator and guardian of fair, transparent and consistent application of the EC rules and procedures throughout all stages of the twinning cycle

European Commission Headquarters - EC HQ

Sets the legal, financial and procedural framework for Twinning projects and ensures the backstopping of Twinning activities and quality control of twinning fiches and contracts

European Commission Delegation – EC DEL

Ensures the Program Management and Contracting and is the central point of communication between the Beneficiary country and EC Headquarters

TWINNING PROJECT CYCLE

1. **Development of Twinning Ideas/Concepts**

Working within the parameters of the National Action Programmes the Beneficiary Country (the FP from the Beneficiary Administration and the Programme Administration Office) develops Twinning ideas.

The idea/concept must be developed before the implementation and the idea must have sufficient value and support in order to proceed

TWINNING PROJECT CYCLE

2. **Proposal of a Twinning project**

The Beneficiary Administration submits the proposal of the Twinning project to the Programme Administration Office outlining its key components as specified in the Twinning Manual

The PAO, in agreement with the EC, assesses the quality of the proposal and eventually includes in the Annual Work Plan

TWINNING PROJECT CYCLE

3. **Development of a Twinning Fiche**

- The BA supported by external consultants and the PAO, develops a Twinning fiche. To ensure a high quality Twinning fiche to be developed, these consultants are retained (under a Framework Contract) by the EC Delegation.
 - When the Twinning fiche is completed, the PAO, in consultation with the EC Delegation, conducts an initial quality control check.
 - On completion of this first quality check, the Twinning fiche is forwarded to the EuropeAid and the relevant Line Directorates General (DG) for comments and recommendations.
-

TWINNING PROJECT CYCLE

4. **Call for proposals**

After the Twinning fiche has been developed, quality checked and approved, the call for proposals is published on EuropeAid's website.

The EC e-mails the call for proposals, including the Twinning fiche to 27 National Contact Points (NCP) in the EU Member States.

NCP forwards the Twinning fiche to the relevant public administration institution.

TWINNING PROJECT CYCLE

5. **Selection of a Member State Twinning Partner**

The selection of a MS Twinning partner takes place in a Beneficiary Country. It is an intensive process and it involves

- evaluation of the Twinning proposal
- physical presentation of the proposal by the proposed MS Project Leader and the Resident Twinning Adviser

The evaluation is completed by the evaluation committee consisting of the representatives from the EC and the BA.

TWINNING PROJECT CYCLE

6. **Contract development**

After selection of the MS Twinning partner, both Twinning partners (MS and BC) work together to develop a Twinning Work Plan, which will outline in detail the complete work programme and the mandatory results

Both Twinning partners contractually agree to this plan and to achieving results (mandatory results outlined in the plan)

TWINNING PROJECT CYCLE

7. **Contract signature**

The Twinning contract is signed by the MS Twinning Partner and the European Commission, and endorsed by the Beneficiary Administration

8. **Start of the Twinning project activities**

OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES

□ **Common Twinning Manual
(Revision 2007)**

Official guidelines for the preparation and execution of Twinning projects

http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/financial_assistance/institution_building/twinning_en.htm

□ **Thesaurus -**

Database containing information on the Twinning projects launched from 1998 in different areas and various countries

Common Twinning Manual (Revision 2007)

- defines fundamental principles of Twinning projects;
 - establishes the overall procedures guiding the operational and financial management of Twinning projects;
 - provides practical information for public sector experts involved in preparation and implementation of Twinning projects.
-

Ms. Veronica Vann
RCBI 2nd project

Regional Capacity Building Initiative

*Supporting Partner Country participation
in ENPI CBC Programmes 2007-2013*

January 2007-December 2009



This Project is funded by the EU



This Project is implemented by a consortium led by MWH



Funded by the EU

Outline of Presentation



Implemented by MWH

- **Brief outline the CBC component of ENPI**
- **Introduce you to RCBI project and the support it can provide**



Funded by the EU



Implemented by MWH

ENPI CBC – An Introduction

- **CBC - an important component of ENP**
- **5% of ENPI budget + ERDF funds = €1B for ENPI CBC**
- **Supplemented by co-financing**
- **Programmes run from 2007 to 2013**
- **Programmes almost finalised, first calls for proposals due second half of 2008**

REGIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING INITIATIVE (RCBI)
supporting Neighbouring countries in the ENP and Border Cooperation Programmes



Funded by the EU



Implemented by MWH

ENPI CBC Participatory, Decentralised

- **Joint development of programmes**
- **Joint decisions on how to spend money**
- **Joint development and implementation of projects**
- **Programmes address local and regional priorities**
- **Decentralised management and control by JMA**

REGIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING INITIATIVE (RCBI)
supporting Neighbouring countries in the ENP and Border Cooperation Programmes



Funded by the EU



Implemented by MWH

ENPI CBC Overall Objectives

4 Overall Objectives

- Economic and social development in border regions
- Addressing common challenges, eg environment, public health
- Efficient and secure borders
- Promoting local people-to-people actions

REGIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING INITIATIVE (RCBI)
supporting Neighbouring countries in the ENPI CBC Border Cooperation Programmes



Funded by the EU



Implemented by MWH

9 land border & 3 sea crossing programmes

ENPI CBC Land
Border and Sea
Crossing Programmes

Legend

EU/NEIGH regions

Non-EU regions

0 50 100 km



REGIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING INITIATIVE (RCBI)
supporting Neighbouring countries in the ENPI CBC Border Cooperation Programmes

3 Sea Basin Programmes

Armenia participates in 1

ENPI CBC Sea Basin Programmes



REGIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING INITIATIVE (RCBI)
supporting Neighbouring countries in the ENPI CBC Border Cooperation Programmes

ENPI CBC Eligible Applicants

In the eligible border regions

- Regional and local authorities
- NGOs
- Regional development agencies
- Educational and scientific institutions
- Business associations
- National bodies' regional representatives

REGIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING INITIATIVE (RCBI)
supporting Neighbouring countries in the ENPI CBC Border Cooperation Programmes

Black Sea Basin Programme

Eligible countries and regions

- **Bulgaria:** Severoiztochen, Yugoiztochen
- **Romania:** Sud-Est
- **Greece:** Kentriki Makedonia, Anatoliki Makedonia Thraki
- **Turkey:** Istanbul, Tekirdağ, Kocaeli, Zonguldak, Kastamonu, Samsun, Trabzon
- **Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova:** the whole country
- **Russia:** Rostov Oblast, Krasnodar Krai, Adygea republic
- **Ukraine:** Odessa, Mykolaiv, Kherson, Sevastopol, Zaporosh'ye and Donetsk Oblasts, Crimea Republic, Sevastopol

Black Sea Basin Programme

Budget and Priorities

- **EC contribution €17m plus co-financing**
- **Priorities selected under three objectives**
 - **Priority 1:** Supporting cross border partnerships for economic and social development based on common resources
 - **Priority 2:** Sharing resources and competencies for environmental protection and conservation
 - **Priority 3:** Supporting cultural and educational networks for the establishment of a common cultural environment in the Basin



Funded by the EU



Implemented by MWH

RCBI - at a glance

- **EU project - January 2007 - December 2009**
- **Supports neighbouring countries to jointly develop and implement 15 cross border programmes**
- **Assists 15 neighbouring countries in Eastern Europe and Eastern and Southern Mediterranean**

REGIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING INITIATIVE (RCBI)
supporting Neighbouring countries in the ENPI CBC Border Cooperation Programmes



Funded by the EU



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RCBI ENPI CBC EU Technical Assistance

- **Support to develop Programmes**
- **Information materials and events**
- **Support to identify and develop projects**
- **Assistance in finding partners**
- **Training in project management**

REGIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING INITIATIVE (RCBI)
supporting Neighbouring countries in the ENPI CBC Border Cooperation Programmes

RCBI Support Structure



RCBI East Support team

- **Veronica Vann** – Team Leader
- **Karine Leroy** – Programme design and implementation
- **Franck Sottou** – Management, audit and control
- **Anna Ososinska** – Information and project development
- **Country Specific Expert** -soon to be appointed
- **Anatoliy Pavelko** – Administration and event organisation (based in Lviv)

Contacts and information

- **RCBI General Email**
- info@rcbi.info
- **RCBI Website**
- www.rcbi.info
- **DG Aidco CBC Team Mailbox**
- EuropeAid-cbc@ec.europa.eu
- **DG Aidco CBC Team Website**
- http://ec.europa.eu/comm/europeaid/projects/enpi_cross_border/index_en.htm

Black Sea Basin Programme Priorities and Measures

OBJECTIVE 1: PROMOTING ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE BORDER AREAS	
Priority 1: Supporting cross border partnerships for economic and social development based on common resources	Measure 1.1: Strengthening accessibility and connectivity for new intra-regional information, communication, transport and trade links
	Measure 1.2: Creation of tourism networks in order to promote joint tourism development initiatives and traditional products
	Measure 1.3: Creation of administrative capacity for the design and implementation of local development policies
OBJECTIVE 2: WORKING TOGETHER TO ADDRESS COMMON CHALLENGES	
Priority 2: Sharing resources and competencies for environmental protection and conservation	Measure 2.1: Strengthening the joint knowledge and information base needed to address common challenges in the environmental protection of river and maritime systems as well as in renewable energy
	Measure 2.2: Promoting research, innovation and awareness in the field of conservation and environmental protection for protected natural areas
	Measure 2.3: Promotion of cooperation initiatives aimed at innovation in technologies and management of solid waste and wastewater management systems
OBJECTIVE 3: PROMOTING LOCAL, PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE COOPERATION	
Priority 3: Supporting cultural and educational networks for the establishment of a common cultural environment in the Basin	Measure 3.1: Promoting cultural networking and exchange in the Black Sea Basin communities.
	Measure 3.2: Promoting networking and development of educational institutions

RCBI Support to Develop Programmes

- **Stakeholder and SEA consultations**
- **Financial support to attend programming meetings**
- **Training for programme management**

RCBI Training in Programme Management

- **5-day training at JMA**
 - Managing calls for proposals
 - Giving advice on project development
 - Selecting projects
 - Managing finances
- **Ongoing advice and support**



Funded by the EU



Implemented by MWH

Information on ENPI CBC from RCBI

- **Information events in eligible border regions**
- **Posters, and other promotional materials**
- **Website with news and information**
www.rcbi.info

REGIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING INITIATIVE (RCBI)
supporting Neighbouring countries in the ENPI CBC Border Cooperation Programmes



Funded by the EU



Implemented by MWH

RCBI Support to Developing projects

- **Project identification and development events**
- **Help to find partners - partners database**
- **Local 'drop in' advice sessions**
- **Project management training for partners**

REGIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING INITIATIVE (RCBI)
supporting Neighbouring countries in the ENPI CBC Border Cooperation Programmes

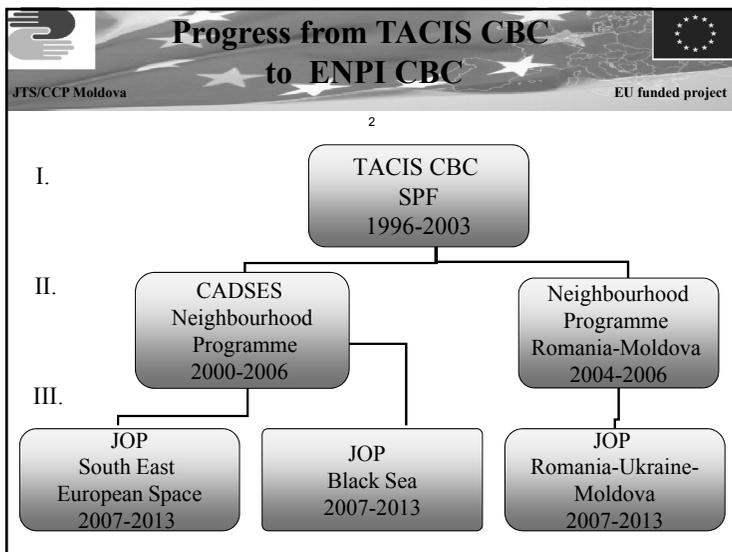
Ms. Marianna Puntea
Expert, CBC Secretariat, Moldova

JTS/CCP Moldova EU funded project

1

Experiences from Cross Border Cooperation Programmes in the Republic of Moldova: from TACIS to ENPI

Mariana Puntea, JTS Moldova



 Progress from TACIS CBC to ENPI CBC 		
JTS/CCP Moldova EU funded project		
3		
		
TACIS CBC	NP CBC	ENPI CBC
1996 - 2003	2004 - 2006	2007-2013
€ 31 m	€ 5 m NP Ro-Mo € 5 m CADSES	€ 126 m Ro-Mo-Uk JOP € 17 m BSB JOP € 206 m SEE JOP
23 implemented projects	Call 2004: 2+1 approved projects Call 2005/06: 10 projects expected	? approved projects

 TACIS CBC Programme 1996-2004 	
JTS/CCP Moldova EU funded project	
4	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tacis CBC Programme based on individual priorities listed in the Tacis Regulation (border crossings, environmental issues, energy & transport). • CBC SPF promote direct links between local authorities on the border regions • 1996-2003 period - € 31m for Moldova • Big projects focused on border crossings and related infrastructure : Leuseni, Ungheni, Giurgiulest, Radauti-Lipcani Bridge (first attempt for a co-financed project) • CBC SPF 11 projects approved : main accent on local economic development (8), social protection (4) environment (2), tourism • Focus on Euro-regions' development (Lower Danube & Upper Prut) 	



Achievements of the TACIS CBC



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5

<u>Results</u>	<u>Lessons learnt</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working together in partnerships • Contacts and Networks • Exchange of experience • Tangeble and measurable outcoms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination mechanism between Tacis CBC and Phare CBC should be significantly strengthened • Make matching funds available for Phare side of the border • More efforts should be made to support the participation of local and regional authorities • A bigger proportion of funds should be allocated to the Small Project Facility and its management should be decentralized



Neighbourhood Programmes 2004 -2006: transitory instrument



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Wider Europe: two phases approach...introduction of Neighbourhood Programmes for 2004-2006 at the external borders of the enlarged EU

- Radical step forward in cross border cooperation
- Includes the participating countries as equal partners
- Elaboration of the Joint Programme Documents with common priorities and measures (selected and agreed by the Parties)
- Funding is available for internal and external partners
- Joint implementation of programmes through Grant Scheme
- A common call for project proposals
- Common procedures for projects evaluation and selection (made locally by a Joint Evaluation Committee)
- Joint Management Structures



Moldova in the Neighbourhood Programmes 2004-2006:



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CBC SPF



Romania-Moldova
Neighbourhood Programme
2004-2006

(Romania € 22 m & Moldova
€ 5 m)



CADES Neighbourhood
Programme 2000-2006

(Moldova & Ukraine € 5 m)



Neighbourhood Programme Romania-Moldova 2004-2006

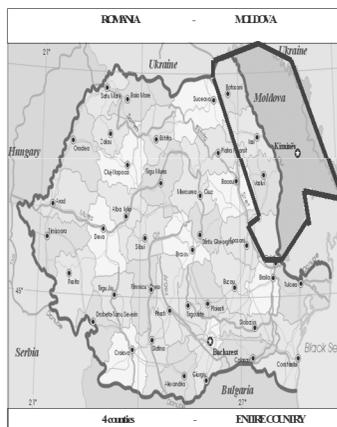


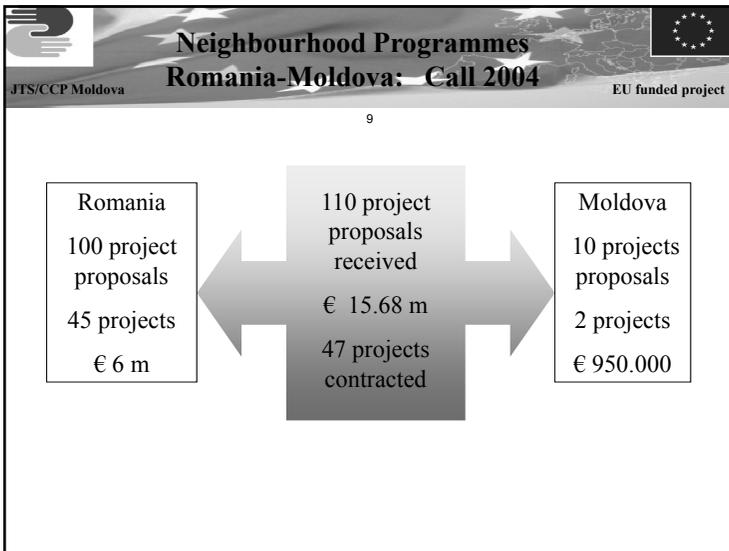
JTS/CCP Moldova

EU funded project

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- Bilateral cooperation focused on local social and economic development.
- Specific measures for bilateral cooperation (border infrastructure, local economic development, tourism, social services, environment)
- Overall budget € 27 m (Romania € 22 m & Moldova € 5 m)
- Joint programming and implementing structures: JCC, JSC JTS (Iasi, Romania) and a branch-office in Chisinau
- Separate Contracting Authorities
- Minor differences in the implementing rules (centralised and decentralised systems)
- Whole country eligible





Neighbourhood Programmes
Romania-Moldova: Call 2004
selected projects

JTS/CCP Moldova EU funded project

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- **Project title:** Ensuring sustainable social-economic development in the border region between Romania-Moldova
- **Overall objective:** reconstruction of the water supply network in Mingir village
- **Budget :** € 820.000 (EU contribution 75%)
- **Beneficiary:** Mingir Mayoralty
- **Project size:** 24 months
- **Specifics :** 90% infrastructure component


Neighbourhood Programmes
Romania-Moldova: Call 2004
selected projects


JTS/CCP Moldova EU funded project

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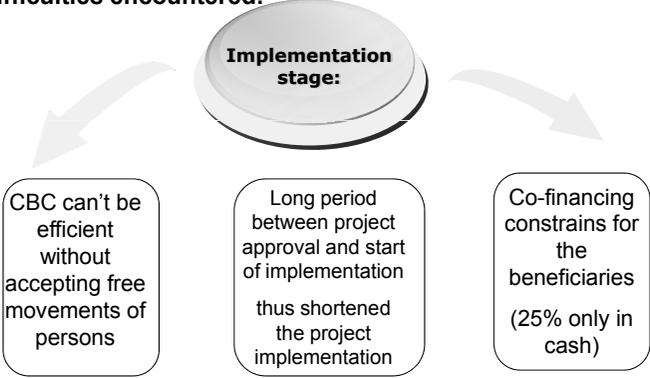
- **Project title:** “Development of investment capacities in the Hincesti – Leuseni tourist zone”
- **Overall objective:** creation of opportunities for tourism investment activities in the border region crossed by Hincesti –Leuseni highway (Corridor IX)
- **Budget:** € 418.830 (EU contribution 71%)
- **Beneficiaries:** Hincesti District Council and 18 local mayoralties
- **Project size:** 24 months


Neighbourhood Programmes
Romania-Moldova: Call 2004


JTS/CCP Moldova EU funded project

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Difficulties encountered:



Implementation stage:

CBC can't be efficient without accepting free movements of persons

Long period between project approval and start of implementation
thus shortened the project implementation

Co-financing constrains for the beneficiaries
(25% only in cash)



Neighbourhood Programmes Romania-Moldova: Call 2005/2006



JTS/CCP Moldova

EU funded project

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Budget 2005 / 2006: € 3.5 m

New elements:

- **Application language:** application package is available in the national language
- **Co-financing** (10-25%): also in kind (up to 50% of the total contribution to be made by the beneficiary)
- **Project budget:** lower minimal threshold
(€ 450.000 \Rightarrow € 200.000)



CADSES (Central, Adriatic, Danubian and South-Eastern European Space) :



JTS/CCP Moldova

4th Call

EU funded project

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- Moldova participated as equal partner in an INTERREG programme for the first time
- Moldovan partners implement common strategic spatial planning projects in EU and non EU territory
- Moldovan national authorities select projects in the CADSES SC.
- Direct links to the EU programme management expertise and to the national planning ministries
- Tacis allocation: € 5 m (Moldova & Ukraine)
- CADSES National Contact Point (CCP) in Chisinau



CADSES (Central, Adriatic, Danubian and South-Eastern European Space : 4th Call

JTS/CCP Moldova EU funded project

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- **Selected project**: Integrated revitalization of historical towns to promote a sustainable urban development
- **Overall objective**: to strengthen small and medium sized historical towns, using the build-cultural heritage as a development factor for sustainable urban development
 - study on current situation of historical towns in Moldova
 - development of a concept for integrated revitalisation approach
 - small scale rehabilitation
- **19 partners** from 9 CEE countries

Neighbourhood Programmes CADSES: Call 2004

JTS/CCP Moldova EU funded project

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Difficulties encountered:

```

graph TD
    A((Implementation stage)) --> B[Difficulties for old programme participants to accept "new-comers" (countries that didn't participants previously in CADSES )]
    A --> C[Double reporting (using different formats): to the Lead Partner and the Contracting Authority (EC Delegation)]
    A --> D[Different rules applied to internal (ERDF) and external parts of the project (PRAG)]
  
```

Difficulties for old programme participants to accept "new-comers" (countries that didn't participants previously in CADSES)

Double reporting (using different formats): to the Lead Partner and the Contracting Authority (EC Delegation)

Different rules applied to internal (ERDF) and external parts of the project (PRAG)




ENPI -CBC Programmes: an innovative and unique experience

JTS/CCP MoldovaEU funded project

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- **New partnership approach**: equal status of Member States and Third Countries in programming and implementation.
- **New partnership framework** involving a majority of third countries and new members
- **New cofinancing framework**, joining ERDF and ENPI (cohesion policy fund and neighborhood policy instrument for one joint programme)
- **New experiences in project cycle management**: most of the partner countries never experienced the EU programming approach, the co-financing principle, the multiannual financial plan, the EU financial controls systems




Transferable experiences from CBC 2004-2006 to ENPI-CBC Programmes

JTS/CCP MoldovaEU funded project

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- **Institution building**: CBC programmes structures and expertise partially transferable to the CBC ENPI Programmes.
- **Capacity building**: projects promotion, implementation procedures created transferable competencies in regions
- **Programming partnership for CBC**: bilateral and multilateral programmes with some of the further CBC ENPI Partners led to reciprocal understanding and methodology that can be extended to these Programmes
- **Increased awareness/interest** from project partners in CBC partnership due to good practices in projects and programming



Joint Operational Programme Romania-Ukraine-Moldova



JTS/CCP Moldova

2007-2013

EU funded project

19

- Programme addressing cooperation at regional level
- € 126 m ENPI funding
- 3 partner states: 1 MS and 2 NPs
 - towards more competitive border economy
 - environmental challenges
 - people-to-people cooperation
- JMA: MoDPWH(Romania)
- JTS in RO Suceava and RO Iasi + 3 branch offices in Uk and Mo
- Core area: Romania (4 counties), Moldova (whole territory), Ukraine (2 oblasti)+ adjoining regions (4)
- Grants – PRAG procedures



Joint Operational Programme Romania-Ukraine-Moldova 2007-2013
Programme area



Joint Operational Programme Romania-Ukraine-Moldova



JTS/CCP Moldova

2007-2013

EU funded project

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State of play

1. Joint Operation Programme document to be approved at national level
2. SEA report drafted; national consultations organised
3. Financial Agreement to be signed till end of November
4. Joint structures to be created
5. Call of interest organised (bilateral TA budget Ro-Germany)
 - 65 projects ideas received
 - 48 Moldova
 - 15 Romania
 - 2 Ukraine



Joint Operational Programme

Black Sea

2007-2013



JTS/CCP MoldovaEU funded project

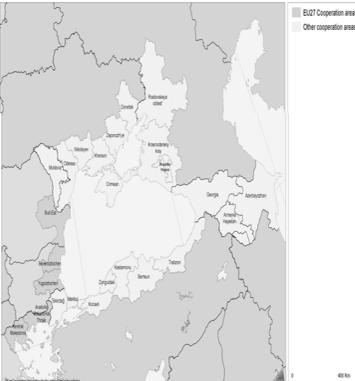
21

- Programme addressing cooperation at regional level
- 10 Partner States: 3 MSs, 1 Candidate Country, 6 third countries
- Joint budget: € 17 m

BS JOP for Moldova:

- Unique experience for Moldova, only Baltic Sea Programme a similar experience in EU
- NPs not really an experience for the BS JOP – except for setting up of the administrative structures
- Programme documents approved at national level

ENPI CBC Sea-Basin Programme 2007-2013
Black Sea





Joint Operational Programme

South Eastern Europe

2007-2013



JTS/CCP MoldovaEU funded project

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- Most diverse and complex transnational cooperation area
- 17 Partners: MSs, candidate countries, potential candidates and third countries
- € 206.7 m budget from ERDF + allocation from ENPI and PAA
- Areas of intervention:
 - entrepreneurship development
 - environment protection
 - improvement of accessibility
 - sustainable growth areas
- JMA (Hungarian National Development Agency)
- Operational Programme document to be approved by the EC

South East Europe (SEE)





What is important for successful CBC cooperation ?



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- Commitment of partner countries
- Effective decision making process in the common programme bodies.
- Closer cooperation of national and regional authorities;
- The same, simplified procedures should be used on MS side and in Partner Countries,
- Close participation of all partner countries to the programme drafting and project promotion
- Cooperation to overcome logistic and administrative obstacles, language barriers



What is important for successful CBC cooperation ?



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- Widespread information to potential beneficiaries
- Instruments for the creation of the projects partnership: info-points, partner search forums;
- Capacity building exercises: training of managing staff, beneficiaries, control bodies

Ms. Sorina Canea
CBC-BS Program Coordinator,
Ministry for Development of Romania



Common borders. Common Solutions.



Black Sea Cross Border Cooperation in the framework of the European Neighbourhood Policy

Black Sea Joint Operational Programme 2007-2013

Sorina Canea



Common borders. Common Solutions.



The New neighborhood strategy and Black Sea Basin programme

- **The Global objective of the Cross Border Cooperation in the new Neighborhood strategy** :.....to support sustainable development along both sides of the EU's external borders, to help ameliorate differences in living standards across these borders, and to address the challenges and opportunities following on EU enlargement....
- **The global objective of the Black Sea Basin Programme:**...to achieve a **stronger regional partnership and cooperation** to promote sustainable economic and social development of the regions of the Black Sea Basin, based on stronger regional partnership and cooperation.



Common borders. Common Solutions.



Programme's main features

- European Neighborhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI)
- **Regulation (EC) no. 591/2007**
- Multiannual programming - 7 years
- **Joint Programme:** joint programming, joint projects
- **Joint budget: 17 millions Euro + 10% national co financing**
- Turkey contributes with IPA funds, 1 million Euros/year
- 90% EU co-financing
- Programme addressing **cooperation at regional level**
- **NUTS II regions-** and equivalent territorial units in partner countries
- **10 Participating States:** 3 Member States, 1 Negotiating Candidate Country, 6 partner countries



Common borders. Common Solutions.



ENPI CBC Sea-Basin Programme 2007-2013
Black Sea



Romania: (South East); **Bulgaria:** Severoiztochen, Yugoiztochen

Greece: (Kentriki Makedonia, Anatoliki Makedonia Thraki);

Turkey: (Istanbul, Tekirdağ, Kocaeli, Zonguldak, Kastamonu, Samsun, Trabzon);

Russia: (Rostov Oblast, Krasnodar Krai, Adygea republic);

Ukraine: (Odesa, Mykolaiv, Kherson, Sevastopol, Zaporosh'ye and Donetsk Oblast, Crimea Republic, Sevastopol);

Moldova, Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan-all regions



OBJECTIVE 1: PROMOTING ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE BORDER AREAS

Priority 1: Supporting cross border partnerships for economic and social development based on combined resources

5,500,000 Euro (ENPI)

Measure 1.1: Strengthening accessibility and connectivity for new intra- regional information, communication, transport and trade links

Measure 1.2: Creation of tourism networks in order to promote joint tourism development initiatives and traditional products

Measure 1.3: Creation of administrative capacity for the design and implementation of local development policies



Indicative activities

- Support to the promotion of traditional products from Black Sea agriculture on the international market;
- Development of cooperation networks aimed at promoting the use of information and communication technologies in local/regional economic initiatives;
- Pre-feasibility studies for small-scale transport infrastructures for a better integration of less developed areas and tourist destinations in the Basin;
- Common initiatives for promoting transit transportation infrastructures in the region aimed at increasing freight and passenger transportation efficiency.
- Creation of cross-border tourism products and common service standards (thematic routes, quality systems etc).
- Training for staff of local bodies and institutions supporting SMEs, especially for the improvement of capacity to operate in interregional initiatives (e.g. marketing plans, product development and small business management);
- Networks for the promotion of innovative urban and rural planning and management methodologies for urban development and rehabilitation;
- Establishment of a Black Sea Basin network for capacity building for local and regional administrators through the exchange of good practices and innovations for local development;



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OBJECTIVE 2: WORKING TOGETHER TO ADDRESS COMMON CHALLENGES

Priority 2: Sharing resources and competencies for environmental protection and conservation

6,250,000 Euro (ENPI)

Measure 2.1: Strengthening the joint knowledge and information base needed to address common challenges in the environmental protection of river and maritime systems

Measure 2.2: Promoting research, innovation and awareness in the field of conservation and environmental protection for protected natural areas

Measure 2.3: Promotion of cooperation initiatives aimed at innovation in technologies and management of solid waste and wastewater management systems



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Indicative activities

- Establishment or strengthening of networks for the development in partnership of methodologies and capabilities of the responsible rescue authorities in view of the response to oil spills on the coastal area and the mitigation of marine pollution;
- Support to the development in partnership of contingency plans in order to ensure the ability of the Black Sea coastal authorities to respond to pollution;
- Preparation/promotion or implementation of scientific studies in the fields of monitoring, control and protection of the maritime system and of rivers in the area.
- Development of concepts for coordination and cooperation in case of natural or man-made disasters
- The establishment or strengthening of networks for joint development of planning and management methodologies and the creation of databases for the natural protected areas of the Black Sea Basin;
- Support to information and educational activities, including awareness-raising campaigns, in the field of wastewater and solid waste management, water saving and waste recycling;
- Partnerships for innovation in waste management in regions with significant seasonal tourism flows that are concentrated in particular areas;
- Partnerships of authorities for the exchange of good practices and governance tools in the sectors of solid waste and wastewater management - based on EU approaches.



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OBJECTIVE 3: PROMOTING LOCAL, PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE COOPERATION

Priority 3: Supporting cultural and educational initiatives for the establishment of a common cultural environment in the Basin

3,825,350 Euro (ENPI)

Measure 3.1: Promoting cultural networking and educational exchange in the Black Sea Basin communities.



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Indicative activities

The establishment of partnerships for the promotion of cultural heritage values;

- Establishing networks of cultural institutions in the Black Sea Basin for strengthening regional identity;
- The creation of networks of cultural centres, sharing cultural values from all regions
- The establishment of partnerships for the exchange of experiences with traditional popular culture through the promotion of common cultural events in the Black Sea Basin.
- Partnerships for the exchange of students and academics for the establishment of channels of cultural integration in the Black Sea Basin;
- Partnerships among universities, high schools and research centres aimed at the design and development of special educational programmes based on topics of common interest in the Black Sea Basin;
- Networks for the exchange of experience in adapting education and vocational training systems to the needs of a market economy, based on common approaches.



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Projects' main features

- All projects will be based on cross border partnership, from EU Member States and partner countries.
- **Integrated projects** where each partner carries out a part of the activities of the joint project on its own territory
- **Beneficiary (Lead partner)** will be leading implementation and interacting with the JMA.
- **Projects' size:** minimum 50.000 Euros
- **Grants:** PRAG rules
- **Potential beneficiaries:** local and regional authorities, development, environmental and tourism agencies, chambers of commerce, NGOs, Education institutions.



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Projects' selection

- One call for proposals for all priorities, launched by JMA, after prior approval from JMC
- Applications submitted to the Joint Technical Secretariat (JTS)
- Projects assessment: **JTS** (administrative check, eligibility check)
Selection Committee (technical evaluation)
- Projects selection: decision of **Joint Monitoring Committee**, based on the criteria proposed by the JMA



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Indicative schedule **for call for project proposals**

4 calls for project proposals:

- 2008- 3rd semester
- 2009- 4th semester
- 2011- 3rd semester
- 2012- 3rd semester

2013- last contracting year

2014- last projects' implementation year

2016- last year for payments at programme level



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Added value of the ENPI CBC Programme

- Project partners are local and regional authorities and NGOs;
- Project definition is in the hands of these local and regional actors on the basis of the programme's priorities;
- Projects are prepared and implemented in a partnership spirit, with similar organisations sharing experience with their partners across the borders, working together to address common challenges or to develop a joint potential;
- Projects will have a cross-border impact;
- The programme priorities concentrate on the common needs of the eligible regions, and were jointly identified by the 10 participating countries;
- The area of cooperation defined by the programme for the Black Sea Basin is broad, regionally coherent and unique.



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Next steps

- Common agreement among the partners (at technical and political level) on the final version of the programming document- *November 2007*
- Submission of JOP to EC for approval -*November-December 2007*
- EC approval -*beginning of 2008*
- A financing agreement is signed by the EC and each partner country of the joint operational programme; the JOP can start as soon as one partner country has signed its financing agreement- *during 2008*
- First call for proposals – *3rd semester of 2008*



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Useful information

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