



EU4Youth

EASTERN PARTNERSHIP YOUTH ENGAGEMENT SUMMIT

Online, 2-3 July 2020

FINAL REPORT

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1. FOREWORD

Opening speech by Mr **Olivér Várhelyi**, EU Commissioner for Neighbourhood and Enlargement



“I am pleased to be here with you today for our first ever virtual Eastern Partnership Youth Summit. Over the last months, the coronavirus crisis profoundly touched our lives, tested our resilience and everyday cooperation, and young people are among those particularly affected. The European Union stood by the partners in the region: we put forward a substantial package to respond to immediate health needs and to help with the economic recovery. When delivering support on the ground, we have witnessed solidarity and cooperation first hand, and I am happy to say that today the EU remains the most trusted foreign institution among Eastern Partnership citizens.”

This spirit of solidarity and resilience, as well as young people’s role, were discussed in last month’s video conference of leaders of the 27 EU Member States and the six Eastern partner countries. With resilience as an overarching theme, we all agreed to work together on five clear policy objectives: economy, connectivity, the green and digital transitions, as well as fair and inclusive societies.

All of these are areas key for the future. Therefore, young people have a particular stake and a role in them. Empowering young people from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine is and will remain a priority of the European Union in the years to come. Investing in youth is always the best investment.

I am pleased to announce that we will be launching a New Deal for Youth, where we will work together with the governments to ensure the skills the labour market needs. This will make youth competitive globally and allow them to find high quality jobs also regionally. We will also enhance mobility and exchange programmes including through Erasmus+. Under this programme, we aim to offer mobility opportunities to over 25,000 students, researchers and teachers, and 75,000 young people and youth workers from the Eastern Partnership region by 2025. And finally, we will support youth leadership and participation in policy making by establishing a network of youth councils.

Your numerous participation at today’s summit is important and I see your motivation and engagement as a strong ambition to help shape a better future for yourselves, and for all of us. I wish you all successful discussions and I am looking forward to your recommendations, and I do hope to meet you all in person at the next summit.”

2. INTRODUCTION

The **Eastern Partnership Youth Engagement Summit, held online on July 2-3, 2020**, was the first large-scale online-only EU – Eastern Partnership (EaP) youth event. It was a free, globally accessible meeting for registered participants from the EU and Eastern partner countries.

A total of 457 active, critical and responsible youth leaders and youth workers and 33 speakers from **28 countries** engaged in a dialogue amongst themselves and with EU and EaP policy makers on achievements and challenges in the youth field in the European Union and its Eastern Neighbourhood region. Participants shared good practices and experiences in the field of youth work and youth policy in both the EU and Eastern partner countries.

2020 is an important year for the Eastern Partnership process. On the one hand, it is a conclusive year for implementing the “**20 Deliverables by 2020**” policy priorities. On the other hand, and following the “Joint Communication: **Eastern Partnership policy beyond 2020**” published on 18 March and endorsed by the Council of the European Union on 11 May, it is the year when a new policy framework of the EU will pave the way for a new set of common objectives for the future Eastern Partnership process. Building on the results of the 2017-2020 “**Youth and Education Package**” which was developed to fulfil policy objectives defined in “Deliverable 18 - Strengthen investment in young people’s skills, entrepreneurship and employability”, a **New Deal for Youth** will keep EU investment in youth in the focus of the EaP.

The overall **OBJECTIVE** of the EaP Youth Summit was to celebrate and promote past and ongoing EU - EaP cooperation investing in the future of young people, and to facilitate a dialogue between policy makers and youth on the overall approach and concrete steps for the future under the Eastern Partnership. The summit provided space for discussion, exchange on best practices and lessons learned, as well as networking and inspiration for future cooperation.

TOPICS of the EaP Youth Summit included:

- The **Eastern Partnership beyond 2020** and the role for young people (Communication 03/2020 and Council Conclusions 05/2020).
- Youth **participation in policy making** by strengthening EaP Youth Councils and the EaP Civil Society Forum;
- Youth **transition from education to work** through skills development;
- Youth **social entrepreneurship** realities and good practices;
- **Proactive communication** and tackling disinformation about the EU;
- Achievements under the **EU4Youth package**, with a focus on Erasmus+ and EU4Youth.

RESULTS of the Youth Summit include:

- **Sharing** and **celebration** of inspirational practices of youth work in the field of employment, entrepreneurship and civic engagement;
- **Exploration** and **recognition** of achievements of the EU Youth programmes in Eastern partner countries;
- **Harvesting final messages** for navigating the future opportunities for young people in the Eastern partner countries beyond 2020.

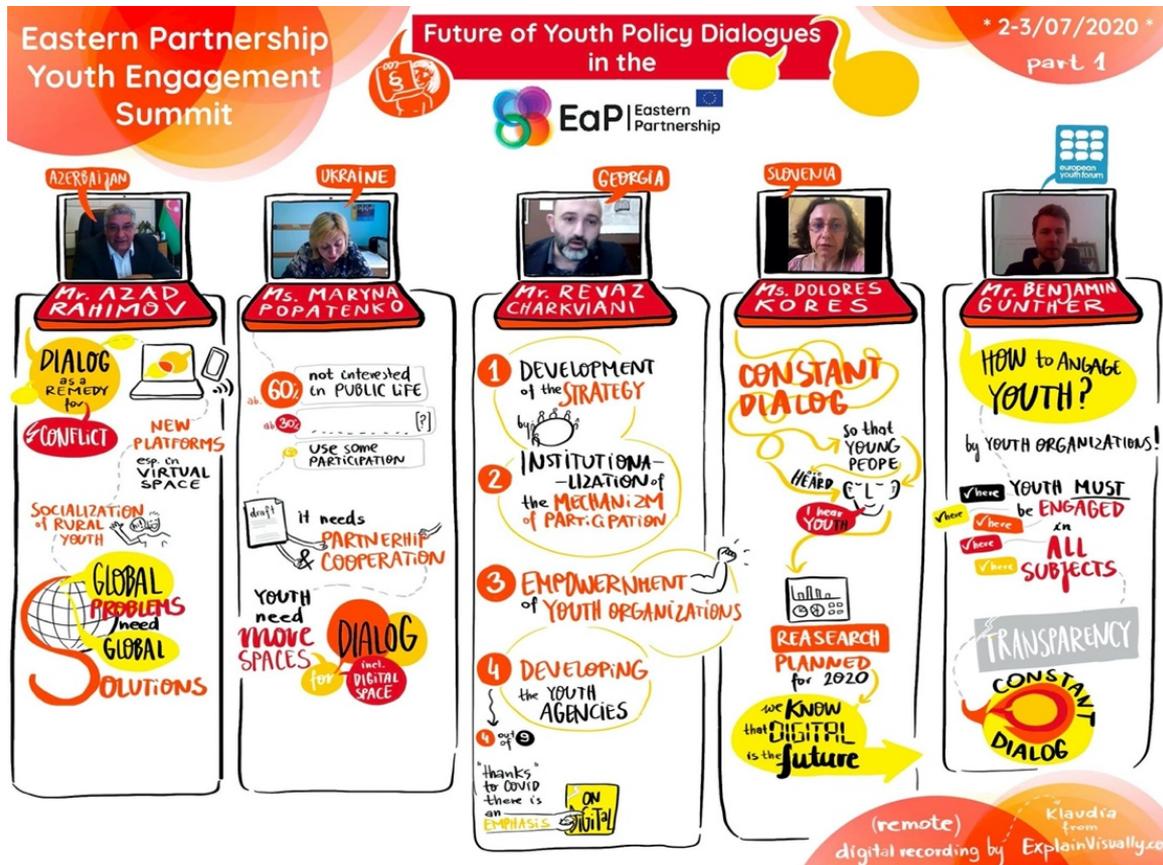
This report includes an overview of the summit programme and its main outputs, including general summit information (participants, speakers and activities), its main content blocks including panel discussions, webinars and workshops, as well as messages and takeaways prepared by participants.

KEY FACTS about the Youth Summit:

- 457 participants
- 33 speakers
- 28 countries
- 311 online poll questions in plenary sessions
- 3,163 online poll votes during plenary sessions

3. PANEL DISCUSSIONS

Panel 1: “Future of Youth Policy Dialogues in the EaP”



This first panel discussion focused on the existing mechanisms of youth policy dialogue in the Eastern Partnership region, as well as future perspectives.

The first panellist, **Azad Rahimov (Minister of Youth and Sports of Azerbaijan)**, presented the achievements of youth dialogue mechanisms in Azerbaijan such as the Youth Forum of 2019, a newly set up web-platform to engage youth bloggers and influencers, or the Leadership School programme. The panellist emphasised that youth dialogue had been hampered in Azerbaijan due to the ongoing conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh. Thanks to the various initiatives in youth dialogue, ten representatives of youth movements were actually elected as parliamentarians in the 2020 parliamentary elections, representing 8% of the parliament members. One of the current priorities in youth dialogue is the participation of rural and vulnerable youth, for which non-formal education is playing a key role in empowering them to formulate their needs, wishes, requests and more. In this respect, the government of Azerbaijan has established 30 ‘Youth Houses’ (youth centres) across the country, which provide training and non-formal education to local youth. The main objectives of youth dialogue in Azerbaijan remain the involvement of youth with fewer opportunities at large, the development of non-formal educational opportunities and improving monitoring and evaluation tools and mechanisms, as well as fostering international mutual learning and exchange of good practices.

The second panellist, **Maryna Popatenko (Deputy Minister, Ministry of Youth and Sports of Ukraine)**, presented the Ukrainian context of youth dialogue. The panellist emphasised that youth participation is not just a basic work principle, but is rather approached as a tool for encouraging youth to be active and co-develop a mutually habitable society. The panellist also shared the objectives of Ukraine's Youth State Programme (developing youth participation in public life, increasing the capacity of civil society institutions, promoting volunteering, developing youth centres, training youth workers, implementing intra-regional youth exchange programmes in Ukraine and developing youth research). According to recent data, nearly 60% of youth in Ukraine show no interest in public participation, whereas only 6% of youth actively participate in public life. The panellist highlighted that the current objective of youth policy in Ukraine is to increase active youth participation to at least 25%, and to develop an index of youth participation to produce evidence that youth participation is effectively being enhanced. The draft law of Ukraine "On Basic Principles of Youth Policy in Ukraine" is in the final stages of preparation, with the 'EU4Youth - Youth Engagement Roadmaps' project willing to provide expert assistance in finalising the draft, in line with EU best practices. The panellist concluded by remarking that government and young people should share responsibility through joint decisions and by co-implementing youth policy and youth action plans.

The third panellist, **Revaz Charkviani (Head of the Youth Agency of Georgia)**, started by underlining that youth empowerment is key to building a truly democratic society in Georgia and that young people are core members of every society. The panellist shared an overview of challenges faced by Georgia in the youth sector, notably the absence of platforms and mechanisms to facilitate youth participation and the low willingness of youth to engage. The current mission of the Youth Agency is to create a youth sector ecosystem based on Council of Europe and EU principles that provide opportunities to youth to fully realise their potential, to claim their own rights and fully integrate them into economic and public life. The panellist explained that for this reason, the Youth Agency of Georgia is working on nine reform directions or "pillars", of which four leverage youth participation, as well as developing a cross-sectoral government Youth Strategy for 2025, institutionalising mechanisms of youth participation in decision making, for instance via Youth Advisory Councils at regional level, empowering youth organisations and providing financial support to youth organisations, and supporting the development of municipal youth policy, including Municipal Youth Councils. At the same time, Georgia is currently working on institutionalising youth work and the youth worker profession by developing a state-recognised youth worker certification programme.

The fourth panellist, **Dolores Kores (Acting Director of the Office for Youth of Slovenia)**, shared Slovenia's experiences in youth dialogue. The National Youth Council of Slovenia (NYCS) acts as an advisory body to the government to channel ideas, needs and wishes of the youth sector to the governmental level. NYCS is made up of youth organisations and provides opportunities for youth dialogue at local, regional and national levels. A country-wide network of local youth centres also plays a key role in channelling the concerns of local youth to decision makers via the NYCS. Every year, representatives of the government, local authorities, young people, youth organisations and other youth stakeholders gather for a summit in order to have a face-to-face youth dialogue. A large national research project on the youth situation is foreseen in 2020 to prepare new measures to respond to the Covid-19 crisis in addition to what is already being done. The panellist concluded by emphasising the need to actually *listen to* youth as a crucial factor in youth dialogue.

The last panellist, **Benjamin Gunther (Board Member, European Youth Forum)** briefly introduced the European Youth Forum, the largest umbrella organisation of youth organisations in Europe. The panellist emphasised that when considering youth dialogue, youth participation should be approached as a human right. In order to successfully and sustainably engage young people, youth stakeholders need to work together to develop the capacity of youth organisations to represent youth and communicate their needs and wishes. According to the panellist, participation is a prerequisite of any democratic society and therefore quality youth participation mechanisms and partnerships between youth organisations and policy makers must be in place to leverage young people's potential to shape youth policy and any other decisions having an impact on the lives of young people. It was also emphasised that meaningful participation can be fostered by empowering young people to take part in dialogue, by including youth in all sectors that influence their lives, and by making sure that participation is long-term and ongoing, and that transparency mechanisms are applied. To conclude, the panellist remarked that in the context of shrinking civic space, the Covid-19 pandemic affects young people to a significant degree, therefore funding for youth organisations and young people should not be discontinued.

The audience had the opportunity to ask questions to all panellists. One question concerned clarifications about youth dialogue opportunities for vulnerable and rural youth in Azerbaijan. Another participant asked which stakeholders would be necessary to engage in youth dialogue processes in Ukraine but also more generally. The audience was also interested in knowing more about inclusive youth participation mechanisms in Georgia. Several questions raised the issue of how to ensure linkages between young people and institutions, in reply to which the last panellist underlined the need to build youth dialogue structures that function effectively at various levels, and with a strong basic link to constituencies.

Panel 2: “Moving forward on youth employment and entrepreneurship”

Eastern Partnership Youth Engagement Summit

Moving forward on Youth Employment, and Entrepreneurship

* 2-3/07/2020 * part 2

EaP Eastern Partnership

GERMANY: DR. ROLF SCHMACHTENBERG

ARMENIA: Mr. ARTHUR MARTIROSYAN

ITALY: Mr. CESARE ONESTINI

MOLDOVA: Mr. MARCEL MARIN

BELARUS: Mr. ANDREY LOBOVICH

ETF European Training Foundation

GRAPHIC RECORDER had some technical problems and couldn't work

SORRY!

VOCATIONAL TRAINING

MIX of WORK & EDUCATION eg. INTERNSHIPS

PROBLEMS:

- we need INNOVATIVE APPROACH
- children should have EARLY CAREER ORIENTATION
- LOW QUALITY JOBS

EDUCATION is the key

1 labor force is UNDERUTILIZED

Jobs that CANT be FILLED & youth that CANT UTILIZED their SKILLS

2 ...

3 LEARNING has CHANGED! NEW METHODS

YOUNG PEOPLE as EDUCATORS

4 MAJOR PROGRAMS

YOUTH CENTERS

PORTFOLIO of PROGRAMS

it's not easy to cooperate with LOCAL INSTITUTIONS

REVISION of the STRATEGY

EMPOWERING YOUTH is the main issue

(remote) digital recording by Klavdia from ExplainVisually.cz

The host of this panel discussion, **Lawrence Meredith** (Director for Neighbourhood East and Institution Building, Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations DG NEAR), introduced the topic by underlining the crucial importance of youth employment and entrepreneurship. The current average unemployment rate in Europe is 6.6% but over 15% of people aged 15-24 are unemployed. Although this is still high, it is considerably lower than the peak youth unemployment rate of 25% in 2012 following the economic crisis of 2008-2009. The priority for the EU in terms of youth employment lies in creating more *decent* work (i.e. matching young people’s skills and well-remunerated), providing quality jobs for youth, improving working conditions, ensuring access to social-protection, and providing life-long learning opportunities. The President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, highlighted in her recent declaration on the EU’s Covid-19 recovery plan, that the recovery shall be a “green, digital, just and fair recovery”. DG NEAR’s director for Neighbourhood East stressed the same orientation would guide the EU’s approach for future support in the Eastern neighbourhood.

The first panellist, **Dr Rolf Schmachtenberg** (Permanent State Secretary at the Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of Germany), presented examples of good practice in terms of facilitating youth transition from school to work. In Germany, this transition is facilitated by the provision of quality career orientation and counselling, as well as the dual vocational training system which combines theoretical learning with practical experience in private sector companies. The panellist emphasised that the European

Youth Guarantee implemented since 2014 has helped over 24 million young people across the EU and contributed to decreasing youth unemployment. The panellist also told the audience that the newly presented EU youth support package, A Bridge to Jobs, which builds on the Youth Guarantee, is a top priority under the German presidency and would be put in place as soon as possible. The new and improved Bridge to Jobs will be more inclusive, with a wider outreach focusing especially on disadvantaged groups and will link in with the needs of companies, especially SMEs, providing the skills required - in particular those for the green and digital transitions.

The second panellist, **Artur Martirosyan (Deputy Minister of Education, Culture, Science and Sport of the Republic of Armenia)** started by remarking that human capital is a guarantee for prosperity and that youth should (especially) be considered as a powerful resource for societies. Youth unemployment in Armenia is particularly high – according to the Youth Development Index of the UN, the country scored 117 out of 183 surveyed countries on the criteria “Youth Employment and Opportunities”. The youth (16-30) unemployment rate is estimated at 28%, with a higher proportion affecting young women. According to the panellist, the main challenges related to employment and entrepreneurship in Armenia are: a chronic mismatch between education and demand on the labour market; high unemployment in regional areas and strong territorial discrepancies; challenge to provide stable employment to uncompetitive and unskilled workers; and the lack of local employment opportunities for newcomers on the job market, for instance young graduates without prior experience. However, the panellist highlighted that many initiatives and actions are currently being undertaken in the country with the financial and technical support of the EU and international development agencies in order to modernise curricula, reform public education, provide quality career orientation, develop dual education or work-based learning systems, among others. In conclusion, the panellist reminded the audience of the importance of non-formal education and life-long learning for skills development, which are the key to a smooth transition from schools to jobs.

The next panellist, **Cesare Onestini (Director, European Training Foundation)**, noted that investing in youth is the best investment that can be made, not just by the EU, but also its partnership regions and indeed all countries in the world. The Torino Process has demonstrated the many positive reforms being undertaken in the EaP region, but there is still a lack of youth economic participation and meaningful and quality jobs for young people. The panellist highlighted the main reasons behind this situation. First, the extent of under-utilised youth labour force - for instance NEETs (up to 30% in some cases) and unemployed educated youth. The skills available do not match the needs of the labour market, where employers are increasingly looking for combinations of skills rather than single skill sets as was the norm in the past. Furthermore, employers need employees with practical experiences. This holds true especially for SMEs, which themselves have difficulties investing in training employees and find it hard to recruit a specialised or properly trained workforce. Europe and most of the EaP countries currently face a generational change in the teaching professions and this may be a chance for modernising curricula and teaching methodologies and approaching learning in a different way. In conclusion, the panellist stressed the need to support young people to make the right career orientation choices, by providing career guidance and counselling, and supporting the transition from school to work, whilst better connecting employers and the labour market and through focusing specifically on vulnerable youth.

The fourth panellist, **Marcel Marin (Head of Youth Division, Ministry of Education, Culture and Research of the Republic of Moldova)**, presented the main premises of the

Moldovan Youth Strategy and Action Plan (in place since 2014 and ending this year). The next step in Moldovan youth policy is to assess its successes and shortcomings and shape a new Youth Strategy. This will be mainly focused on developing necessary skill sets for youth to integrate into the labour market and for their personal development and wellbeing. Beside the development of a network of youth centres in the regions in order to provide space for youth to meet and learn together, the Youth Division has also developed a portfolio of programmes and trainings to be provided by the youth centres. The main challenge in implementing the Youth Strategy was linked to the reluctance of the local authorities to engage in the youth programmes, as well as the lack of implementing structures, especially in the regions.

The last panellist, **Andrey Lobovich (First Deputy Minister of Labour and Social Protection of Belarus)** emphasised that youth employment is particularly relevant for Belarus, even though the youth unemployment rate is relatively low (5.8%). The panellist highlighted various challenges faced by Belarusian youth when entering the labour market, for instance discrimination against individuals or groups on the basis of their age and lack of trust from employers towards youth. Furthermore, the skills of graduates do not properly match labour market needs. The panellist presented an overview of various programmes run by the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection to support youth in the transition from school to jobs and emphasised the state-subsidised 6-12-month apprenticeship programme for youth.

The first question from the audience concerned the transferability of the successful German dual education system to the Eastern partner countries. Panellists remarked that while many good practices can be transferred, solutions should be tailored to the context, needs, and existing educational and labour market structures. The second question asked how to ensure that youth internships and apprenticeships do not end up being covers for unpaid work and how all stakeholders will engage in the practical training of youth. The last audience intervention concerned the recognition of efforts made in terms of web-based learning in Armenia during the Covid-19 pandemic and if blended educational methodologies could eventually be further developed in the future.

4. TOPIC 1 - YOUTH DIALOGUE

The first topic addressed at the Summit was youth dialogue and its applicability and relevance in the Eastern Neighbourhood region. The webinar and workshops conducted within this thematic area aimed at collecting ideas on the principles and features of youth policy dialogue in the Eastern partner countries and in the Eastern Neighbourhood as a region, reflecting on possible actors and stakeholders within national and EaP regional youth policy dialogue, as well as reflecting on whether the existing structures or formats are replicable and how they should be modified to ensure maximum inclusiveness.

Webinar 1: Youth engagement in policy-making by strengthening Eastern Partnership youth councils and the

This webinar addressed the topic of youth dialogue, i.e. the dialogue between young people, youth organisations, civil society actors, researchers, experts and other actors about policies that have an impact on youth. Speakers included representatives of both EU institutions and civil society organisations, in order to provide a broad perspective on opportunities for transferring the EU Youth Dialogue experience to the partner countries.

The objective of the youth dialogue webinar was to familiarise its participants with the EU Youth Dialogue, the structures and work of the EaP Civil Society Forum, and the general state of affairs with youth participation in decision-making in Eastern partner countries.

Webinar speakers included Jasna Maric-Krajacic (DG EAC), Juulia Bader-Baer (EaP CSF), Roman Banari (National Youth Council of Moldova) and Anna Ostrikova (UNDP Ukraine).

As a result of the webinar, participants gained a greater understanding of the structured dialogue with youth in the European Union, an overview of the situation regarding youth participation in their own countries (EaP as a region), and understand the structure and main objectives of the EaP CSF.

The webinar prepared participants to deepen discussions during the subsequent workshops. This allowed to explore the future of youth dialogue in the region, and more specifically the benefits and challenges of a structured youth dialogue in each of the Eastern partner countries, to look into possibilities for intra-regional EaP youth dialogue, at various elements of the EU structured dialogue to be possibly integrated in EaP, and to assess which key actors (youth councils, CSF, etc.) to engage with.

EaP Civil Society Forum

The first speaker, **Jasna Maric-Krajacic (Policy Officer, Directorate General for Education and Culture (DG EAC), Youth Unit, European Commission)** presented the basic premises of the EU Youth Dialogue and details of how it is implemented, and also discussed potential transferability to Eastern partner countries. The EU Youth Dialogue supports the implementation of the Youth Strategy, a policy cooperation framework engaging all relevant stakeholders, such as EU institutions and other international organisations, Member States, local and regional authorities, youth organisations and organisations working with young people, youth workers, youth researchers, civil society

actors, young people, etc. The idea is to tackle core areas of the youth sector and reinforce cross-sectoral cooperation. The three core areas of action of the Youth Strategy include:

- 1 - Engage: Fostering young people's participation in civic and democratic life;
- 2 - Connect: Connecting young people across the EU and beyond to foster voluntary engagement, learning mobility, solidarity and intercultural understanding;
- 3 - Empower: Supporting youth empowerment through quality, innovation and recognition of youth work.

These priorities and the related 11 Youth Goals are crafted through one of the largest citizen participation processes in Europe, engaging youth to share their visions of the EU in every Member State during national consultations taking place in an 18-month work cycle. One of the highlights of the EU Youth Dialogue process are the Youth Conferences that take place every second year, and which allow policy makers and youth representatives to review the survey's results and discuss priorities and actions. The speaker also emphasised that the objective of the Youth Strategy is to create clear links between decisions at policy levels and actual implementation and EU programmes, such as Erasmus+.

The second speaker, **Juulia Baer-Bader (Communications Manager, Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum (EaP CSF) Secretariat, also supporting EaP Thematic Platform 4 – “Contacts between People”)** briefly presented the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum, which has existed for 10 years and features over 1,000 member organisations working together for reforms and better cooperation with the EU. The speaker explained how the EaP CSF functions in terms of decision-making processes related to its activities of advocacy, campaigning, cooperation etc. The EaP CSF is an institutional partner of the EU and the recommendations developed by member organisations in their five existing Working Groups are channelled and advocated to the EU institutions, for instance during EU events. The speaker emphasised the highlight events relevant to the civil society cooperation framework i.e. the EU Youth Conferences that take place every other year. The first conference edition “Youth for Rights” took place in 2015 in Bratislava and focused on Human Rights. The second edition “Youth for Entrepreneurship” was in Vienna in 2018. The third conference edition will take place in autumn 2020 and will be a digital event focusing on ecological transition, climate change and related environmental challenges. The 2020 conference will allow space and time to discuss the role of youth in tackling these challenges and how to support awareness raising for advancing reforms and dialogue. These events bring a broad range of stakeholders from the EU and the Eastern partner countries into dialogue.

Thereafter, the third speaker, **Roman Banari (Vice-President, National Youth Council of Moldova)** presented the National Youth Council (NYC) of Moldova– a national body consisting of 61 member organisations and founded in 1999. The main mission of the NYC of Moldova is to represent youth organisations and young people in relations with the government and international institutions. The NYC participates in decision-making processes in the areas of education, youth, social inclusion, youth organisation development, and youth economic empowerment. NYC Moldova is a member of various international umbrella or network organisations, and an active member of Working Group 4 (Contacts between People) of the EaP CSF. Beyond developing the capacity of

youth actors in Moldova, for instance in inclusive youth participation, the NYC of Moldova also carries out campaigns, advocacy and public consultations. The speaker highlighted the main challenges faced by youth actors in engaging meaningfully into youth dialogue, i.e. tokenism, lack of co-management, lack of social inclusion and discrimination of youth with fewer opportunities, presence of government-organised NGOs (the so-called GONGOs), and lack of state programmes to support national youth councils in the Eastern partner countries to engage in youth dialogue nationally or internationally. However, the speaker identified a number of opportunities for youth engagement in policy making: co-management of youth programmes or projects with young people, promoting youth participation in local or regional decision-making processes, structured EaP youth dialogue, digitalisation and ICT as a potential for social inclusion of youth with fewer opportunities, and developing rights-based approaches and youth strategies at national and EaP regional level.

The fourth and final speaker, **Anna Ostriкова (Youth Officer, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Ukraine)** presented an overview and examples of youth participation in Eastern partner countries. Youth participation is included and highlighted in national policies of all EaP members, but unfortunately is mainly considered as direct political participation, for instance voting or political engagement. The speaker highlighted a certain participation paradox in the partner countries: many youth-led movements and social transformation processes took place in the region in the last 25 years, but the levels of youth participation in the Eastern partner countries remain low, especially among youth from rural or deprived urban areas. Despite programmes and projects that invested in fostering youth participation over past years, the situation changes only slowly. The related challenges are weak youth information infrastructures, weak outreach to non-engaged young people, and a lack of awareness among youth of existing participatory mechanisms and tools.

In her concluding remarks, the speaker highlighted that youth in the Eastern Neighbourhood region want to be change-makers and actively to engage in youth dialogue processes, but need more support, information, tools and participatory mechanisms for getting more meaningfully and fully engaged.

Messages from youth dialogue workshop participants (all three sub-groups):

1. Youth Dialogue should be included in the national school curricula, with specific involvement from local schools as social epicentres.
2. We need more cooperation between NYCs and National Platforms of the EaP CSF - National Platforms would channel the opinions to WG4 of the EaP CSF.
3. Benefits and opportunities of the dialogue are: joint efforts to solve youth issues and advocacy campaigns and bringing EU youth policy standards to youth policies of the EaP countries.
4. Transparency, accountability and inclusion should be the main principles of youth dialogue.
5. Fostering civic education and youth empowerment through non-formal education is extremely important for youth participation.
6. Reporting back to make sure that young people's voices were not only listened to but also heard.
7. There is a lack of structures in the Eastern partner countries at national level (i.e. funded structures, grants and funding, established channels to work with

authorities), but this shortcoming can be also an opportunity to develop tailor-made structures in the region.

8. Weakness: youth dialogue can be manipulated by politicians, and all youth are not represented equally.
9. Lack of awareness and visibility of Youth Dialogue among youth within the region.
10. Reaching young people where they are, in their daily life, as a way to engage them in dialogue, diversifying ways to communicate and to provide participation.

5. TOPIC 2 - TRANSITION TO WORK

The second topic addressed at the Summit was the transition from education to work and the role of skills development in this process. The webinar and workshops conducted within this thematic area aimed to explore good practices of supporting young people's transition from education to work (including employment, self-employment, entrepreneurship and the gig economy), to discuss elements of success for young people's participation in the labour market, to collect future challenges and opportunities, and finally to harvest most relevant current issues and considerations for strategies to be discussed in the future on the transition of young people from education to work.

Webinar 2: Youth transition from education to work through skills development

The webinar was geared to introduce the EU Youth Guarantee as a good practice for potential adaptation of best practices in Eastern partner countries, to reflect on key issues for EU-EaP cooperation in the transition from education to work, to present current youth and labour market realities in the Eastern Neighbourhood and to introduce the results of the Torino Process.

Webinar speakers provided both EU and national perspectives on key issues affecting youth transition from education to work, with Frederique Rychener (EC Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion), Arjem Deij (European Training Foundation) and Mateusz Jezowski (Foundation for the Development of the Education System). As a result of the webinar, participants improved their understanding about the realities of youth employment in the EaP region and were introduced to youth employment support measures as under the Youth Guarantee.

The first speaker, **Frederique Rychener (Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion - DG EMPL)** presented an overview of the European Youth Guarantee, an initiative created to support young people's transition from education to work. The initiative was launched in 2013 at a time when youth unemployment in the EU was skyrocketing following the economic crisis of 2008. The Youth Guarantee is a commitment by all Member States to ensure that all young people under the age of 25 years receive a good quality offer of employment, continued education, apprenticeship or traineeship within a period of four months of becoming unemployed or leaving formal education. During the EaP regional conference "Youth Transitions to Work" held in Kyiv on November 28, 2019, dialogue and cooperation on employment policy was initiated, complementing existing measures on youth employability in order to support Eastern partner countries to enhance policy effectiveness and prepare the EaP post-2020. The strategy aims to gather key stakeholders of the employment and youth sectors from the partner countries in order to provide opportunities for sharing experience, to promote cross-regional mutual learning, and to review practical experience in implementation of the Youth Guarantee and its potential for transferring it to the Eastern partner countries. Upcoming milestones are to establish modern Public Employment Services in Eastern partner countries and to find ways to address more inactive NEETs.

On July 1, 2020, the European Commission presented a new youth support package called Youth Employment Support – YES, to respond swiftly to the Covid-19 crisis. This package includes the follow-up of the Youth Guarantee initiative, called “A Bridge to Jobs”. It covers initiatives in the fields of youth, VET, skills development and skills matching. The target groups of the new programme will be extended up to the age of 29, in contrast to the initial programme’s age limit of 25. The inclusion of marginalised or excluded youth is a top priority, especially youth with special needs, or those living in deprived urban areas or remote rural areas. Matching skills with labour market needs is aimed to be optimised in line with the green transition and digitalisation, thanks to multi-stakeholder partnerships. Another important element of the programme is the attention given to strengthening multi-actor partnerships across sectors, such as VET, employment service providers, youth organisations, etc.

The second speaker, **Arjen Deijm (European Training Foundation - ETF)** presented the results of the implementation of the Torino Process implementation in the Eastern partner countries and its implications for youth. The Torino Process is a participatory process leading to an evidence-based analysis of the vocational education and training (VET) policies in a given country. It allows evidence-based policy making and development of corresponding action plans and programmes in the VET sector. The findings of the Torino Process in the Eastern partner countries shows that they are dealing with challenges similar to those in EU Member States, namely the technological and digital transition, globalisation and market integration, connectivity, climate change and demographic shifts. Currently, labour markets are particularly affected by the ongoing Covid-19 crisis and learning processes are disrupted and/or hindered.

Human capital development challenges in the region include the shrinking supply of skills and poor use of labour force (also related to the decline in overall population), changing jobs, and inadequate education, training and skills development systems that are poorly adapted to skill demands in the labour market. It would be necessary to ensure better use of the workforce, generating meaningful and growth-related jobs, creating added value products and services for raising competitiveness, increasing key competences, and reforming institutions.

The speaker presented measures that could positively impact the situation, e.g. continued reforms, teacher training, Youth Guarantee, SME development and the upcoming Green Deal. However, he added it was also urgent to consider adult education and life-long learning for all to foster human capital development for those outside schools. Additionally, educational approaches must be modified to be adapted to 21st century challenges, such as the need for entrepreneurial and digital competences and the recognition of learning that occurs outside the classroom.

The last speaker, **Mateusz Jeżowski (Foundation for the Development of the Education System/ National Agency of Erasmus+ Programme, Poland)** presented an overview of the actual skills and competences needed on the labour market and where young people can acquire these skills. In the context of the so-called fourth industrial revolution, everyday work realities include not only the need to be able to work with other people, but also to be able to deal with autonomous robots, machines or big data analytics. While education systems are struggling to prepare young people for the current realities of the labour markets, they face an even greater challenge to prepare for the realities of work and the labour market in the next 20 years, especially in this current Covid-19 crisis. Additional challenges include how to prepare young people to deal with work-life

balance, including when regularly working at home, and how to increase job satisfaction beyond financial incentives.

The speaker presented the Key Competences Framework adopted by the Council of the EU in May 2018, covering the following competences: literacy, multilingualism, numeracy, competences in science, technology, and engineering, digital skills, personal, social and learning to learn competences, citizenship, entrepreneurship, cultural awareness and expression. The World Economic Forum uses its own framework of 16 skills divided into three main pillars – foundational literacies, competences and character qualities.

Thereafter, the speaker presented the Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps (ESC) programmes as proven tools for enhancing and developing the skills of young people to integrate into the labour market. A survey performed biennially shows positive results in skills development of young people participating in trans-national mobilities under the Erasmus+ and ESC programmes, for instance in multilingual competence or intercultural learning. Beyond this, it shows that a majority of Erasmus+ participants have increased their self-confidence and ability to adapt to new situations – competences that are particularly necessary when integrating into the labour market. The respondents to the surveys highlighted that they used the Erasmus+ or ESC programmes in order to check a specific work sector and assess if they were interested or fit for working in this area. The impact of both programmes on the professional path of participants is highlighted as very strong. Nevertheless, shortcomings of the Erasmus+ and ESC programmes include the lack of developing ICT and mathematical competences, which are crucial to the labour market. In conclusion, the speaker emphasised that most of the competences necessary on the labour market can to some extent be developed through active participation in non-formal educational activities.

The concluding Q&A session allowed participants to ask the first speaker a number of questions about details of the Youth Guarantee. The discussion also focused on how to foster transversal skills development through a stronger integration and cooperation between formal and non-formal educational sectors, how to fill the increasing gap between highly skilled and non-skilled workers due to digitalisation and other globalisation trends, as well as how to strengthen recognition of learning outcomes of non-formal education towards employers and society at large.

Messages from youth transition workshop participants (all three sub-groups)

1. Need for better cooperation between different sectors, involve not only education and labour but also other sectors, better dialogue with society and young people, taking risk and working in partnerships, share information between stakeholders.
2. Review what is the role and value of work - including strengthening financial literacy, awareness about the market, needs and opportunities (beyond the labour market).
3. Accessibility of learning opportunities (including international learning mobility programmes) and recognition of competencies gained in different ways.
4. Apprenticeships, internships, student exchange programmes and international volunteering programmes are the most important opportunities available for young people for a smooth transition from education to work in the future.

5. Adaptability, persistence, self-confidence, creativity, flexibility and digital skills are the key skills for success in the labour market in these times.
6. Empowering young people to contribute towards policy making processes and building approaches to boost economic growth, building platform for dialogue between different actors.
7. Changing labour markets require different, more relevant skills (e.g. digital skills). Creativity, innovation, digital tools, entrepreneurship - new subjects needed. Future skills needed: promote equality, join the Green Deal, enhance ICT and media literacy.
8. Professional orientation and guidance services in schools should be linked with changing labour market offers.
9. Range of qualifications needed for the labour market is both expanding (more needed) but also narrowing (more specialised qualifications needed). Difficulty in gaining the range of appropriate experience which is needed to enter the labour market; often it is through connections with others that young people find their connections and opportunities to enter the labour market.

6. TOPIC 3 - SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP

The third topic addressed at the Summit was social entrepreneurship (SE) and the role of youth, as well as good practices and current realities in the field in Eastern partner countries. The webinar and workshops conducted within this thematic area aimed to explore the various understandings of SE, to allow participants to contribute their knowledge and examples and to harvest key messages on the issues relevant to youth and social entrepreneurship in Eastern Partnership countries.

Webinar 3: Youth social entrepreneurship realities and good practices

The main objectives of the webinar were to familiarise its participants with the main principles of SE, to present examples of legislative frameworks used to govern SE in different countries of the European Union, as well as to introduce the concept of impact investment.

The aim of the session was to allow speakers from pan-European and local grass-root organisations as well as EU programmes to present realities and good practices in the field of youth social entrepreneurship in the EU and EaP countries.

Webinar speakers included Andreja Rosandic (European Association of Venture Philanthropists - EVPA), Angela Achitei (Alaturi de Voi Foundation) and Alyona Lis (EU4Youth - Youth Engagement Roadmaps project).

As a result of the webinar, participants gained a better understanding of the main features of social entrepreneurship and impact investment, were better informed about how SE is governed in legal terms in different countries of the European Union and shared a common understanding of main features of existing SE practice in the EaP countries.

The presentation of the first speaker, **Andreja Rosandic** (European Association of Venture Philanthropists - EVPA), focused on social entrepreneurship and social impact investment. The EVPA is a membership association made up of organisations interested in or practicing venture philanthropy and social investment across Europe. Its vision is a world where philanthropy and investment combine to drive societal impact. EVPA members can be individuals, foundations, social enterprises, governments, corporate and banks engaged in corporate social responsibility (CSR) and more. The speaker defined social enterprise as “a business created to further a social purpose in a financially sustainable way”. It is a hybrid vision combining a non-profit mission with a corporate form, where social enterprises focus on achieving wider social and/or environmental or community objectives rather than profit maximisation. They feature an innovative nature, through the goods or services they offer, and through the organisation or production method. Many social enterprises employ society’s most fragile members in an inclusive employment model and therefore contribute to social cohesion, inclusive employment and the reduction of inequalities.

The speaker highlighted that there is no single legal form for social enterprises but they are based on three main pillars:

- 1 - Social or societal objective of the common good is the main reason for the commercial activity;
- 2 - Profits are mainly reinvested with a view to achieving social objectives;
- 3 - The method or organisation or ownership system reflects the enterprise's mission, using democratic or participatory principles or focusing on social justice.

Several concrete examples of successful social enterprises were presented.

The speaker highlighted existing methodological approaches in supporting social purpose organisations (SPOs) which consist of traditional grant-making, investing for impact, investing with impact, and sustainable and responsible investing (SRI). EVPA's spectrum is mainly focused on investing for and with impact, which consists in a long-term and high-engagement approach to supporting SPOs to maximise social impact. Relevant EVPA practices are tailored financing, non-financial support (capacity building) and impact measurement and management.

In conclusion, the speaker highlighted that social enterprises are currently more resistant and resilient to the Covid-19 crisis as they are generally more flexible and agile in dealing with hindering factors, compared to traditional businesses.

The second presentation of this webinar was delivered by **Angela Achitei** (**Alaturi de Voi Foundation** - ADV Close to You Romania Foundation), and focused on youth social entrepreneurship realities and best practices. After presenting the main principles of a social enterprise, the speaker highlighted the main impact of social entrepreneurship, namely:

- 1 - Social enterprises generate economic and social profit;
- 2 - The social economy is essential for economic and social development in Europe, with 2.8 million social enterprises representing 13.6 million workplaces;
- 3 - Work integration - social enterprises create workplaces for people from groups at risk and have a strong learning dimension;
- 4 - Social enterprises are a useful tool in combating poverty and in lowering social inequalities.

Following a short explanation on the Romanian legislative framework for social entrepreneurship, a promotional video about the Close to You Romania Foundation was shown. Their programmes foster social inclusion through a social entrepreneurial model and include a publishing house, a travel agency, archiving services for companies and more. They train and employ marginalised young people in their services and programmes.

Finally, **Alyona Lis** (Senior non-key expert of the **EU4Youth - Youth Engagement Roadmaps Project**) provided participants with an overview of social entrepreneurship in Eastern partner countries. She said the number of social enterprises was relatively low per country, with the exception of Ukraine which features 5,000+ registered social enterprises. According to the speaker, this is due to the strong presence in Ukraine of donors, including seed funding for the SE sector, but also to the restrictive entrepreneurship realities in other countries. Concrete examples of social enterprises were given, such as Buta Art and Sweets in Azerbaijan employing women at risk, the

Ecovisio Training Centre in Moldova promoting environmental lifestyles and inclusive employment, or the 'Ukraine without Waste' social enterprise.

The speaker presented the main challenges tackled by social enterprises in the region, for instance social inclusion, tourism and culture, rural development, support to vulnerable groups including IDPs, war veterans or the homeless, women's empowerment, etc. Only Moldova has actual legislation on social entrepreneurship. Nevertheless, this does not seem to impact on the development of this sector as non-profit organisations are generally allowed to have economic activities for re-investing revenues in their non-profit activities.

According to the speaker, education for social entrepreneurs is mainly provided by the non-formal or informal education sector in the Eastern partner countries. However, this implies that educational offers are fragmented as they are project-based and linked to donor-funding. There is also a lack of quality mentorship services across the region. University education in social entrepreneurship is currently emerging in Armenia, Belarus, Georgia and Ukraine, but the lack of manuals, trained personnel, and poor links to practitioners are challenging the quality of these programmes. Schools have unfortunately been missing out on social entrepreneurship education.

Access to seed funding and investments remain a challenge for most entrepreneurs in the region as no state programmes exist in any of the six Eastern partner countries. Start-ups generally use personal investment or crowdfunding, as well as seed funding from international organisations such as the EU, USAID and other international donors. Impact investors miss out, except in some rare cases in Ukraine.

During the Q&A session, the audience asked the first speaker about the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on social entrepreneurship, especially newly set-up start-ups, and if any trends could be drawn. Moreover, the audience was interested in the possible transition from a "classical" business to a social enterprise model. The speaker provided a successful example of such a transition: PANA, an Albanian social enterprise producing quality and design furniture from recycled wood and employing people from marginalised groups, especially the elderly.

A constructive comment was made by a participant that social enterprises often focus solely on social aspects of the model and miss out on environmental aspects. Fortunately, social enterprises featuring both strong social and sustainable aspects are currently becoming the norm in the SE sector. Lastly, a participant enquired on the actual need of a social enterprise to be innovative (or not). The speaker highlighted that by having a social impact mission, social enterprises lose some competitiveness (e.g. by investing in people learning, etc.). Consequently, they need to regain this loss by having a creative and innovative idea or a model that raises their profile and overall competitiveness against "traditional" businesses.

Messages from social entrepreneurship workshop participants (two subgroups)

1. The concepts of SE and social impact measurement need more promotion through examples of positive impact on the community.
2. The legislative system on SE, raising awareness about SE, providing more funds for start-up ideas, training of trainers and conducting impact measurements are all key elements for fostering SE in the region.
3. The focus of SE should be diversified between different areas, but youth should stay at the core.
4. Separate legislation for SE is important; legislative base for SE is not developed in the region, but despite that there are still many good examples of SE; there should be different systems of taxation for social enterprises / social businesses.
5. It will definitely be helpful to share existing SE experiences with those starting up - a kind of mentorship system to match experienced and new/not-experienced (maybe in an online regional platform), also including support in local languages as there is a lack of accessible, useful information regarding SE.
6. Social entrepreneurs of Eastern partner countries are underrepresented on the international investment market; they need to be better represented and connected to capital holders - more focus is needed on supporting regional SEs on the global market.

7. TOPIC 4 - PROACTIVE COMMUNICATION AND TACKLING DISINFORMATION

The fourth topic addressed at the Summit was disinformation and the role of youth in proactive communication and tackling disinformation in Eastern partner countries. The webinar and workshops conducted within this thematic area aimed to build awareness of the complexity of the disinformation by allowing the participants to experience a disinformation attack (through a simulation activity), gather inputs and discuss different response strategies and finally to highlight the importance of open and effective communication for NGOs, governments or other organisations where young people would possibly build their careers.

Webinar 4: How to communicate effectively about the EU and respond to disinformation

The objectives of the webinar were closely aligned with workshop objectives, namely to present the EU's proactive communication approach, notably during the Covid-19 pandemic crisis, to share and compare experiences of success stories, explain what disinformation is and provide tips on how to tackle and deal with disinformation.

Webinar speakers included Anneli Ahonen (EEAS), Janis Rungulis (EEAS), Silvia Grant (EU NEIGHBOURS east project) and Anneli Kimber Lindwall (EU NEIGHBOURS east project).

After a presentation on the latest events and trends in disinformation, and the spread of fake news related to Covid-19, the EU strategy for tackling disinformation was presented and its relevance to youth and the EaP discussed. Furthermore, existing EU programmes addressing the wider public in the region, such as the widely acclaimed Young European Ambassadors programme were presented. Effective and proactive communication is a key challenge faced by the EU against the widespread disinformation campaigns aimed at discrediting its roles and genuine interests.

The first speaker, **Anneli Ahonen (Head of Task Force, European External Action Service's East StratCom Task Force)** provided an introduction on the objectives and role of the Task Force - notably communicating EU policies effectively and strengthening the media environment, as well as forecasting and responding to disinformation campaigns.

The Task Force focuses on finding new ways to raise awareness to a wider audience on disinformation and on how to tackle it. For instance, it produces short videos to promote responsible behaviour and use of social media to fight disinformation related to the Covid-19 crisis. Additionally, the Task Force provided training to the Young European Ambassadors on disinformation on Covid-19 and how to respond to it, during which youth came up with their own ideas on how to display and uncover fake news.

The speaker gave an overview on the process of disinformation related to the Covid-19 crisis and the various fake news, rumours and conspiracy theories that surround it. In total, 494 coronavirus-related cases were compiled in the EUvsDisinfo database, which were shared more than a million times on social media. Social media companies have

shown more interest in taking measures against disinformation on Covid-19, despite it continuing online.

Other EU work on tackling disinformation includes the need to better communicate EU policies by developing communication strategies and campaigns, improving EU-funded projects' communication, working closely with Member States' governments, pooling resources on professional communication, training and capacity development and improving the coordination and expertise inside the EU on how to communicate professionally instead of fragmented communication. The EU has also joined forces with other EU institutions for instance with the European Endowment for Democracy (EED).

The next presentation was by **Silvia Grant** (Team Leader, EU NEIGHBOURS east project, Ecorys) together with **Anneli Kimber Lindwall** (Strategic Communication Adviser, EU NEIGHBOURS east, Ecorys) about 'EU Neighbours East: Communicating for a stronger partnership - connecting with citizens across the Eastern Neighbourhood'. The programme launched in 2015 for five years, aiming to contribute to a better understanding of the European Union and to illustrate the impact of EU-EaP cooperation on the daily life of people. The project's overall #strongertogether approach was built around media outreach (appearances on TV, radio and online media), social media (consistent posting, community engagement and partnerships), feature stories and audio-visual and website content and youth actions. In total, over 35 thematic communication campaigns were implemented in the region in eight languages, targeting youth, women, civil society, local authorities and the general public.

A very successful initiative of the project was the launching of the Young European Ambassadors programme (YEA). YEAs are selected young change-makers from the EaP countries, who share their stories and experiences through videos on social media and other online platforms. There are now more than 700 YEAs in the network from the six partner countries and the EU, whereas it started three years ago with about 100 engaged YEAs. The youth community in the Eastern partner countries has shown a genuine and strong interest in the YEAs programme. A new structure of the YEA programme is currently being launched, which will include further growth of the network, as well as expert training for YEAs on various topics such as on disinformation or key EU policies, multiplier training led by the YEAs themselves in their communities, as well as further engagement online and offline and mentoring.

Furthermore, the project also carried out annual opinion polls that gave regular information about perceptions of the EU by citizens in the Eastern partner countries. The speakers highlighted that perceptions of the EU were positive and improving in recent years. In 2020, 49% of citizens in the region had a positive perception of the EU, whereas 36% were neutral and only 11% perceive the EU negatively. Citizens trust the EU (60%) the most of all international organisations, compared to others such as the UN or NATO.

Messages from disinformation workshop participants:

1. Continuously strengthen the strategic communication and tackle mis-/disinformation.
2. Bring all stakeholders (international organisations, governments, CSOs, citizens) under the same umbrella and work together.
3. Support raising civic awareness and activism as early as possible in the education process.

4. Invest in strengthening teachers' capacities in developing their knowledge & skills about strategic communication and tackling mis-/disinformation (Teaching the teachers programmes).
5. Find interactive ways to educate children in media and social media literacy.
6. Media pluralism and independence, including local and national media monopolies are a challenge in tackling misinformation. The segmentation of media and the state/oligarch ownership (monopolies) are the biggest problem with mis-/disinformation.
7. Civic activism in relation to social media weaknesses.
8. Enforce national and EU laws on false information.

8. FINAL MESSAGES

On the basis of participant discussions and other inputs, a number of key messages have been selected from across the spectrum of thematic workshops.

TOPIC 1: YOUTH DIALOGUE

1. Transparency, accountability and inclusion should be the main principles of youth dialogue in Eastern partner countries.
2. Fostering youth work (including development of local youth centres) and youth empowerment through non-formal education is key for youth participation
3. Enhancing civic education in formal and non-formal education would enhance youth dialogue in EaP countries

TOPIC 2: TRANSITION TO WORK

1. There is a continued need to improve the accessibility of learning opportunities (including international learning mobility programmes) and recognition of competencies gained through formal and non-formal education.
2. Professional orientation, career guidance services in schools (and other learning spaces) linked with the changing labour market are key to a successful education to work transition.
3. Apprenticeships (including in vocational training), internships, student exchange programmes and international volunteering programmes are the most important opportunities for young people to achieve a smooth transition from education to work in the future.

TOPIC 3: SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP

1. The focus of social enterprises is very broad, and they are active in many fields; youth, however, should always be kept at the centre.
2. Strengthening social entrepreneurship ecosystems in all Eastern partner countries, including legislation, capacity-building and funding are key elements for fostering SE in the region.
3. Young social entrepreneurs from Eastern partner countries are underrepresented in international investment markets. They need to be better represented and connected to the capital holders - more focus is needed on supporting regional SE on access to finance on the global market.

TOPIC 4: PROACTIVE COMMUNICATION AND TACKLING DISINFORMATION

1. Strategic communication needs to be strengthened by different stakeholders; this would considerably support tackling mis-/disinformation in Eastern partner countries.
2. There is a strong need to educate children and youth, but also teachers in media and social media literacy.
3. Lack of media pluralism and media independence, including local and national media monopolies are a challenge in tackling misinformation in the region.

9. ANNEXES

Agenda

DAY 1 | 2 JULY 2020

Time	Activity
09h15	Opening of the Virtual Plenary Room
09h20	Welcome and introduction of the agenda
09h30	<p><i>livestream</i></p> <p>Welcome messages</p> <p>Mr. Olivér Várhelyi, EU Commissioner for Neighbourhood and Enlargement</p> <p>Introductory remarks & questions and answers</p> <p>Ms. Katarína Mathernová, Deputy Director-General in Charge of Eastern Neighbourhood, DG NEAR</p>
10h00	Break
10h15	<p>Panel discussion: “Future of Youth Policy Dialogues in the EaP”</p> <p>Q&A session – Dialogues between policy-makers and youth</p> <p>Ms. Katarína Mathernová: kick off</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <p>Mr. Azad Rahimov, Minister of Youth and Sports of Azerbaijan</p> <p>Ms. Maryna Popatenko, Deputy Minister, Ministry for Youth and Sports of Ukraine</p> <p>Mr. Revaz Charkviani, Head of Youth Agency of Georgia</p> <p>Ms. Dolores Kores, Director of Office for Youth of Slovenia</p> <p>Mr. Benjamin Günther, Board Member, European Youth Forum</p>
11h45	Break
12h00	<p>Panel discussion: “Moving forward on Youth Employment, and Entrepreneurship”</p> <p>Q&A session – Dialogues between policy-makers and youth</p> <p>Mr. Lawrence Meredith, Director Neighbourhood East and Institution Building: kick off</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <p>Dr. Rolf Schmachtenberg, Permanent State Secretary at the Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of Germany</p> <p>Mr. Andrey Lobovich, First Deputy Minister of Labour and Social Protection of Belarus</p>

	<p>Mr. Artur Martirosyan, Deputy Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of Armenia</p> <p>Mr. Ivan Gheorghiu, State Secretary, Ministry of Education, Culture and Research of the Republic of Moldova</p> <p>Mr. Cesare Onestini, Director, European Training Foundation</p>
13h30	Closing of day 1: Mr. Vassilis Maragos , Head of Unit, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus & Eastern Partnership, DG NEAR
13h45	End of official part of the 1 st Day
14:30	ONLINE LIVE CONCERT and QUIZZ

DAY 2 | 3 JULY 2020

Time	Activity
09h15	Introduction of the 2 nd Day session plan and objectives
09h20	<p>Opening remarks and presentation</p> <p>Ms. Florencia Van Houdt, Head of Unit, Youth, Volunteer Solidarity and Traineeships Office, DG EAC, Ms. Ivana Vrhovski, International Cooperation Unit, DG EAC</p>
09h30	<p>Presentation: Achievements under Youth and Education Package with focus on Erasmus+, EU4Youth and European Solidarity Corps</p> <p>Mr. Andriy Pavlovych, EU4Youth Coordination and Support team</p>
09h45	<p>Presentation: Key findings of the meta study in the field of youth entrepreneurship, employability and participation</p> <p>Ms. Joke Wiercx, EU4Youth Coordination and Support team</p>
10h15 (Parallel sessions)	<p>Webinars 1: Youth engagements in policy making by strengthening EaP Youth Councils and the EaP Civil Society Forum</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <p>Ms. Jasna Maric-Krajacic, DG EAC</p> <p>Ms. Juulia Baer-Bader, EaP CSF Secretariat</p> <p>Mr. Roman Banari, National Youth Council of Moldova</p> <p>Ms. Anna Ostrikova, UNDP Ukraine</p>
	<p>Webinar 2: Youth transition from education to work through skills development</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <p>Ms. Frederique Rychener, DG EMPL</p> <p>Mr. Arjen Deij, ETF</p> <p>Mr. Mateusz Jeżowski, Foundation for the Development of the Educational System</p>

	<p>Webinar 3: Youth social entrepreneurship realities and good practices</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <p>Mr. Andreja Rosandic, European Association of Venture Philanthropists (EVPA)</p> <p>Ms. Angela Achitei, Alaturi de Voi Foundaiton, Romania</p> <p>Ms. Alyona Lis, EU4Youth-Youth Engagement Roadmaps Project</p>
	<p>Webinar 4: How to be effective in proactive communication and tackling disinformation</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <p>Ms. Anneli Ahonen, European External Action Service’s East StratCom Task Force</p> <p>Mr. Janis Rungulis, European External Action Service’s East StratCom Task Force</p> <p>Mrs. Silvia Grant, ‘EU NEIGHBOURS east’</p> <p>Ms. Anneli Kimber Lindwall, ‘EU NEIGHBOURS east’</p>
11h15	Break
11h45 (Parallel sessions)	<p>Groups 1a+1b+1c: Youth engagements in policy making through strengthening EaP Youth Councils and the EaP CSF</p> <p>Groups 2a+2b+2c: Youth transition from education to work through skills development</p> <p>Groups 3a+3b: Youth social entrepreneurship realities and good practices</p> <p>Group 4: How to be effective in proactive communication and tackling disinformation</p>
13h15	Break
13h30	Sharing outcomes of the discussions in the groups
14h00	<p>Remarks on conclusions</p> <p>Q&A session - Dialogues between policy-makers and youth</p> <p>Mr. Lawrence Meredith, Director Neighbourhood East and Institution Building</p>
14h30	Official Closing: Mr. Lawrence Meredith
14h45	End of the event

Team

Moderators:

- Laimonas Ragauskas
- Maryna Korzh

Facilitators:

- Andriy Donets
- Anna Yeghoyan
- Arsen Simonyan
- Gubaz Koberidze
- Ieva Grundstein
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- Nina Gogoladze
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