



Federal Ministry  
for Economic Cooperation  
and Development



The German Marshall Fund  
of the United States  
STRENGTHENING TRANSATLANTIC COOPERATION



# Europe's Eastern Partners

Building a Development Agenda for Resilience  
Digital Conference, 1 – 2 October 2020



bmz.de



# Building a more resilient Eastern Partnership 2.0: Objectives, agenda, speakers & impact stories

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The Eastern Partnership (EaP) is a joint initiative of the European Union, its Member States and Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine that was set up in 2009. More than a decade later, we stand at a critical juncture to steer the EaP through tumultuous times during the Covid-19 pandemic. This is why the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), together with the KfW Development Bank and the German Marshall Fund, are organising this conference to discuss and outline a development agenda for a more resilient EaP region.

## OBJECTIVES

This conference provides a platform to exchange ideas and develop proposals on how the region can become more resilient. It brings together senior officials from Germany, EU institutions and EU member states as well as a wide variety of change agents from EaP countries: mayors, activists, civil servants, entrepreneurs, journalists, researchers and politicians.

## POLICY CONTEXT

The year 2020 puts the spotlight on the future EaP architecture at an EU level. In March, the EU Commission and the European External Action Service (EEAS) published a Communication on the further development of the EaP under the leitmotif “Strengthening resilience”, with special emphasis on green growth and digitalization. During the EaP video conference with foreign ministers in June 2020, it was agreed to define the future deliverables for the period after 2020 in the coming months, so that they can be presented and endorsed at the physical EaP Summit due to take place in 2021. The new deliverables will build on the “20 Deliverables for 2020”, which were defined five years ago as a common framework for good governance, economy, mobility/people-to-people contacts and connectivity (energy efficiency, environment and climate).



This conference provides a platform to exchange ideas and develop proposals on how the region can become more resilient.

# EUROPE'S EASTERN PARTNERS: BUILDING A DEVELOPMENT AGENDA FOR RESILIENCE

## DIGITAL CONFERENCE ON 1 – 2 OCTOBER 2020 (#RESILIENT\_EAP)

THURSDAY, 01 OCTOBER 2020

### 10.00 – 11.00 Opening plenary: What kind of transformation for the region?

[Ian Bateson](#), Journalist, will guide us through the conference (@ianbateson)

10:00 – 10:10 Welcome by Parliamentary State Secretary [Maria Flachsbarth](#),  
Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

10:10 – 10:20 [Jan Hecker](#), Foreign Policy Advisor to the Chancellor, Federal Chancellery

10:20 – 10:40 [David Zalkaliani](#), Foreign Minister of Georgia

[Michael Siebert](#), Director, Federal Foreign Office

Moderator: [Rosa Balfour](#), Carnegie Europe (@RosaBalfour)

10:40 – 11:00 Q&A

11:00 – 11:10 *Short break*

### 11:10 – 12:10 Plenary: Resilient economies through regional & global value chains

11:10 – 11:30 [Lenna Kozcarny](#), CEO, Horizon Capital

[Slavo Radosevic](#), Professor, University College London

Moderator: [Olaf Zymelka](#), KfW Development Bank

11:30 – 12:10 Q&A

12:10 – 13:00 *Lunch break*

### 13:00 – 14:00 Parallel discussions of the Working Groups: Where do we stand now?

(1) **Resilient economies through regional & global value chains**

Where do economies currently stand in terms of their integration into regional and global value chains?

Facilitators: [Vasyl Myroshnychenko](#) (CFC Consulting) & [Melanie Whittaker](#) (GMF)

(2) **Multi-level governance & responsive public administration**

Where do countries stand in terms of learning from others how to make local, regional & national administrations more responsive?

Facilitators: [Anna Iemeljanova](#) (Center for Innovations Development) & [Isotta Ricci-Bitti](#) (GMF)

(3) **Engagement of civil society**

Where do civil society organisations stand in terms of learning from others how to have greater impact in policy-making?

Facilitators: [Maria Florea](#) & [Nic Bouchet](#) (GMF)

(4) **Deliverables post-2020**

How do the current EaP “deliverables” reflect the development in the region?

Facilitators: [Ana Aelenei](#) (GMF) & [Victoria Rosa](#) (Foreign Policy Association)

14:00 – 14:10 *Short break*

### 14:10 – 15:15 Plenary: Multi-level governance & responsive public administration

14:10 – 14:30 [Gert Antsu](#), Director, Estonian Center of Eastern Partnership

[Maia Bitadze](#), Deputy Mayor of Tbilisi

Moderator: [Kristin Hentschel](#), GIZ

14:30 – 15:00 Q&A

15:00 – 15:15 Wrap-up Day 1: Keywords from parallel sessions by rapporteurs & key messages by [Ian Bateson](#)

Each Working Group has 1 rapporteur who takes notes of essential findings and reports back to the plenary. Each Group must decide at the beginning of their first meeting who will assume this role.

Please note: all times are in CEST

## FRIDAY, 02 OCTOBER 2020

### 10:00 – 10:10 Welcome speech: Our priorities for the region and beyond

[Claudia Warning](#), Director-General, BMZ

### 10.10 – 11.00 Plenary: Engagement of civil society

10:10 – 10:40 [Nikolai Kvantaliani](#), Belarusian Coordinator of the EaP Civil Society Forum

[Marieluise Beck](#), Director, Center for Liberal Modernity

Reply by [Claudia Warning](#), BMZ

Moderator: [Oana Popescu-Zamfir](#), GlobalFocus Center (@OanaPope)

10:40 – 11:00 Q&A

### 11:00 – 11:15 Setting the scene for post-2020 deliverables

[Volker Oel](#), Director, BMZ & [Lawrence Meredith](#), Director, European Commission, Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations

11:15 – 11:30 *Short break*

### 11:30 – 12:30 Parallel discussions of the Working Groups: Where should we be heading?

(1) Resilient economies through regional & global value chains	How can economies better integrate into regional & global value chains in the future?
(2) Multi-level governance & responsive public administration	How can countries develop jointly solutions for making their public administration more effective & inclusive in the future?
(3) Engagement of civil society	How can civil society organisations develop jointly approaches to have greater impact in policy-making in the future, incl. citizen engagement?
(4) Deliverables post-2020	What should the post-2020 deliverables contain to make the region more resilient in the future?

12:30 – 13:30 *Lunch break*

### 13:30 – 14:30 Plenary: Parliaments & the post-2020 deliverables

13:30 – 14:10 [Omid Nouripour](#) (Alliance 90/The Greens, Germany, Head of German-Ukrainian-Parliamentary Group)

[Johann Saathoff](#) (SPD, Germany, Coordinator for Intersocietal Cooperation with Russia, Central Asia & Eastern Partnership)

[Lesia Vasylenko](#) (Holos, Ukraine)

[Maria Karapetyan](#) (Civil Contract, Armenia)

Moderator: [Matthew Karnitschnig](#), POLITICO's Chief Europe Correspondent (@MKarnitschnig)

14:10 – 14:30 Q&A

14:30 – 14:40 *Short break*

### 14:40 – 15:40 Closing plenary: EaP 3.0 – What is next?

14:40 – 14:45 Findings from EaP study, [Nicu Popescu](#), European Council on Foreign Relations

14:45 – 15:00 Q&A

15:00 – 15:35 Fishbowl discussion among rapporteurs

Moderators: [Daniela Bergelt](#), [Alexander Kleibrink](#), BMZ & [Nicholas Cendrowicz](#), European Commission, Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations

15:35 – 15:40 Next steps by [Santiago Alonso Rodriguez](#), Head of Division, BMZ

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- technical issues with Zoom: Hanna Kovhan at +49 157 3827 6726 or [HKovhan@gmfus.org](mailto:HKovhan@gmfus.org)

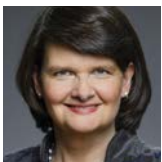
## CURRICULUM VITAE IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE



### IAN BATESON

Ian Bateson is a journalist who has spent over 8 years reporting in Ukraine and Russia. His work has appeared in The Atlantic, The New York Times, The Washington

Post and the Economist. He was a recent visiting fellow at the Wilson Center's Kennan Institute and The Institute for Human Sciences, and was previously a two time Fulbright scholar. He comments on Eastern European politics for Monocle 24 and the BBC World Service. He is a graduate of Columbia College, Columbia University and the Diplomatic Academy of Vienna.



### MARIA FLACHSBARTH

*German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)*

Maria Flachsbarth is Parliamentary State Secretary to the Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development. A doctor of veterinary medicine from the University of Veterinary Medicine Hanover, she became a member of the German Parliament in 2002. Since 2006, she has been deputy chair of the CDU in the state of Lower Saxony, and since 2007, she has chaired the CDU district association for Hanover. From 2013 to 2018, she served as Parliamentary State Secretary to the Federal Minister of Food and Agriculture. She chaired a Parliamentary Committee of Inquiry on the envisaged radioactive waste disposal facility at Gorleben, and she was the special representative for churches and religious communities of the CDU/CSU parliamentary group from 2009 to 2013. From 2002 to 2013, she served on the Parliamentary Committee on the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety.



### JAN HECKER

*Federal Chancellery*

Jan Hecker is the Foreign Policy Advisor to Chancellor Angela Merkel. Prior to his current assignment, he served as Head of the Crisis Committee "Refugee Policy" in the Federal Chancellery. From 2011 to 2015, he was a judge at the Federal Administrative Court in Leipzig. In the years prior, he held various posts in the Federal Ministry of the Interior and the Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution. From 1997 – 1999, he practiced law at Hengeler Mueller and Freshfields Deringer. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Göttingen Law Faculty, his LL.M. from Cambridge University and his habilitation from the European University Viadrina Frankfurt Law Faculty, where he has been teaching European and public law since 2010.



### DAVID ZALKALIANI

*Minister of Foreign Affairs of Georgia*

Prior to his current assignment David Zalkaliani had spent a career as diplomat and held various positions at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia. He served as Ambassador to the Republics of Uzbekistan and Tajikistan, as Director of the Department of Global Relations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia as well as Ambassador to the Republic of Belarus. In 2009 Zalkaliani actively participated in the creation of the political party – "Free Democrats", that was followed by the victory of the Georgian Dream coalition in 2012 parliamentary elections and his assignment as First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs. As chief negotiator for Georgia he was actively engaged in the preparation of the Georgia-EU Association Agreement, including a Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA) component. In 2015 Zalkaliani continued his diplomatic career as an executive director in the newly founded Levan Mikeladze Foundation and once again assumed the position of the First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs in 2016. In June 2018 he assumed office as Minister of Foreign Affairs of Georgia. He graduated from Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University majoring in international law in 1992.



### MICHAEL SIEBERT

*Federal Foreign Office*

Michael Siebert is Director for Eastern Europe, The Caucasus and Central Asia at the Federal Foreign Office. Prior to his current position he served as head of Division for Southern Caucasus and Central Asia. He served from 2012 – 2016 as Consul General of the Federal Republic of Germany in Mumbai and from 2009 – 2012 as Head of Division for Cultural and Media Relations with Asia, Australia, Africa and Latin America at the Federal Foreign Office in Berlin. He held various posts at diplomatic missions to Great Britain, Nigeria, the Russian Federation and The United States of America. Prior to his diplomatic career he worked as journalist and teacher in France. Michel Siebert studied History and French in Bonn, Toulouse and Paris.



### LENNA KOSZARNY

*Founding Partner and Chief Executive Officer, Horizon Capital*

Lenna Koszarny is Founding Partner, Chief Executive Officer and a member of the Investment Committee of Emerging Europe Growth Fund (EEGF) as well as several portfolio companies. She is also Executive Vice-President of Western NIS Enterprise Fund, a \$150 million US-government backed fund. Ms. Koszarny is the Chair of the Board of Directors of the American Chamber of Commerce (ACC) in Ukraine, an organization with over 600 members, serving on the Board for over 4 years. She is



also a Member of the Private Equity Women Investor Network (PEWIN) that unites 600+ senior women leaders in private equity and Empowerment Ambassador of the SheExports Platform launched by Ukraine's Export Promotion Office. She serves as a Board member and Vice President of the Ukrainian World Congress representing over 20 million Ukrainians worldwide, a member of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress Advisory Council in Ukraine, and as a member of the Supervisory Board of the German-Polish-Ukrainian Society in Ukraine. Originally born in Canada, Ms. Koszarny has lived and worked in Ukraine for over 26 years, is a Certified Practising Accountant (CPA) and received her HBA at the Ivey School of Business in Canada.



#### **SLAVO RADOSEVIC**

*Professor of Industry and Innovation Studies at the UCL where he has also been acting director of the School of Slavonic and East European Studies*

He had worked at University of Sussex SPRU as a researcher (1993 – 1999) and before that as a researcher in Croatia. His main research interests are in science, technology, industrial change, foreign direct investments and innovation policy in Europe, with particular reference to Central and Eastern Europe (CEE). He favours empirically oriented and policy relevant research projects, based on neo-Schumpeterian economics. He acts as an expert for the EC, OECD, UNESCO, UNIDO, World Bank, UNECE and Asian Development Bank and several governments in CEE. He also had significant policy-making experience in Croatia and ex-Yugoslavia at the highest policy level. Mr Radosevic was a special advisor to the EC DG Commissioner for Regional and Urban Policy (2015 – 2019). He is visiting professor at National Research University Higher School of Economics St Petersburg.



#### **GERT ANTU**

*Director of the Estonian Centre of Eastern Partnership and Eastern Partnership Ambassador at the Estonian Ministry of Foreign Affairs*

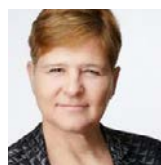
In 2016 – 2019 Gert Antsu served as the Estonian Ambassador to Ukraine. Previously he has worked as the Estonian Ambassador to Belgium (co-accredited to Luxembourg and Switzerland) and as Deputy Permanent Representative to the European Union in Brussels. After the Estonian accession to the European Union in 2004 – 2008 he served as the Director for EU Affairs in the Government Office and advisor to Prime Minister, before that he was actively involved in the coordination of Estonia's preparations for EU membership for seven years. He was extensively involved in teaching students and training Estonian civil servants in preparations for EU accession. Gert Antsu has graduated from the University of Tartu (Estonia) and the College of Europe (Natolin, Poland).



#### **MAIA BITADZE**

*Deputy Mayor of Tbilisi since 2017 and Associate Professor at Tbilisi State University since 2005.*

Mrs. Bitadze had worked as a legal expert for the UNDP, the OSCE and the FAO, focusing on the Environmental topics. Mrs. Bitadze has also held the positions in the governmental institutions of Georgia, such as the Parliamentary Committee of the Environment and Natural Resources and the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia, among them in 2011 – 2014 she worked as a Head of the Legal Department of the Ministry. Ms. Bitadze is the Chair of the Bureau of the Meeting of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention and the Chair of the working group of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention since 2015 and held the position of the Deputy Minister of the Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia from 2014 until the end of 2017. She graduated from Tbilisi State University International Law School in 1999 with Honors and was awarded with the Doctorate Degree in Law later, in 2007 after defending thesis in the field of Environmental Human Rights Law.



#### **CLAUDIA WARNING**

*German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)*

Since May 2018, Professor Claudia Warning has been the Director-General for the Middle East, Asia, Latin America, South-Eastern and Eastern Europe at the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). Her Directorate-General is responsible for technical and financial cooperation with the BMZ's partner countries in the said continents. Prior to this role, she was a member of the Board of the German Protestant development agency Bread for the World for thirteen years. Claudia Warning has vast experience in development from her work in various governmental and non-governmental organisations, including the Karl Kübel Foundation for Child and Family, the German Commission Justitia et Pax, the Federal Ministry of Regional Planning, Building and Urban Development and the German Foundation for International Development (DSE, now a part of GIZ). She also chaired the Association of German Development and Humanitarian Aid Non-Governmental Organisations (VENRO). Other bodies of which she is, or was, a member include: the board of trustees of the German Development Institute; the governing body of the GEPA fair trade organisation; the board of Kaiserin Augusta Victoria Foundation; the board of the Evangelische Jerusalem-Stiftung; the board of the Brussels-based European umbrella organisation of Protestant aid agencies, APRODEV; the board of the Anna Huberta Roggen-dorf foundation; the board of the Dr. Ilse Maria Ehmann foundation; the Indienhilfe Siegburg Prem Sadan Board and others. Professor Warning studied geography in Bonn,

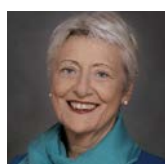
Germany, and in Pune, India. In July 2012 she became a honorary professor at the International Centre for Sustainable Development (IZNE) of Rhein-Sieg University of Applied Sciences.



#### **NIKOLAI KVANTALIANI**

*Director of the "New Group" Association*

He has been a Board Member of the Digital Communication Networks in Belarus since 2018 and has served as the Country Facilitator to Belarus for the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum since 2017. Nikolai Kvantaliani holds an extensive record of working with youth and media organisations in and advocating for their inclusion, and has organised and prepared major conferences such as the 2013 – 2018 Eastern Partnership Youth Conferences and the 2019 Media Literacy Solution Forum.



#### **MARIELUISE BECK**

*Director, Center for Liberal Modernity*

Marieluise Beck is a Director of the Center for Liberal Modernity. She served as member of the Alliance 90/The Greens group in the Bundestag until 2017. She was a politician of foreign affairs with a focus on Eastern and South-East Europe. In addition to her political work she also focuses on humanitarian causes. She carries the Order of Merit with Ribbon of the Federal Republic of Germany. In 2016 she was awarded the Ramer Award for Courage in the Defence of Democracy by the American Jewish Committee (AJC). She was spokesperson of the first green parliamentary group in 1983, a member of the parliament from 1983 to 2017 and member of the committee on foreign affairs since 2005. She was given responsibility for migration within the green and red government and was parliamentary state secretary in the ministry for employment. In addition, she was a member of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. There she joined the 'Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe' (ALDE). She is a board member of the 'Petersburger Dialog'. During the Serbian-Bosnian conflict, she founded the organisation 'Brücke der Hoffnung' (Bridge of Hope), which generates over 10 million euros for humanitarian projects.



#### **VOLKER JOHANNES OEL**

*German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)*

Volker J. Oel was appointed as the BMZ's commissioner for the Middle East / MENA; Southeastern / Eastern Europe and Latin America in July 2019. After his studies of Law at the Universities of Bonn, Saarbrücken (Germany) and Edinburgh (United Kingdom) 1988 – 1994 he did his Legal Training (1994 – 1996). In 1997 he joined the Ministry (BMZ) first as a Desk Officer for the Europe-

an Union Division; then in 2001 for the Sub Sahara Africa; Southern Africa Division. 2002 – 2005 he was the Head of Development Cooperation at the German Embassy in Windhoek, Namibia. Between 2005 and 2009 he led the department Organisational Affairs (Deputy Head of Division) and Legal Affairs (Head of Division) before assuming the position of the Head of Development Cooperation at the German Embassy in Kabul, Afghanistan (2013 – 2014). After that, he led the Division "Steering and Supervision of the German Development Agency (GIZ)" (2014 – 2016) and was finally the Head of Development Cooperation at the German Embassy in Pretoria, South Africa (2016 – 2019) before he came back to the BMZ in Bonn. Before assuming his current position as director he was head of the Middle East division.



#### **LAWRENCE MEREDITH**

*Director for Neighbourhood East, DG NEAR – European Commission*

Lawrence Meredith has been Director for Neighbourhood East in DG NEAR in the European Commission since 1 December 2015. In 2015, he was Head of Strategy in DG NEAR, and led work on the European Neighbourhood Policy Review. Previously, he has worked for 10 years on Enlargement Policy, both as Head of Strategy and Head of the Kosovo Issues Unit. He worked in the Cabinet of Commissioner Louis Michel on Southern Africa & the Pacific. Lawrence Meredith studied Russian & French at Oxford University.



#### **OMID NOURIPOUR**

*Alliance 90/The Greens, Germany, Head of German-Ukrainian-Parliamentary Group*

Omid Nouripour is a German politician who currently serves as a member of the Bundestag, representing the state of Hessen. He is the ranking member of the Green caucus in the Foreign Affairs Committee, as well as the spokesperson of the Greens on Foreign Affairs. He also serves as head of the German-Ukrainian parliamentary friendship group. Before becoming a member of the German Parliament, he worked as an assistant to a member of the European Parliament and as a journalist for a leading German newspaper. Omid Nouripour studied German Philology, Political Science and Law, as well as Philosophy and Macroeconomics at Johannes Gutenberg-University, Mainz.



#### **JOHANN SAATHOFF**

*SPD, Germany, Coordinator for Intersocietal Cooperation with Russia, Central Asia & Eastern Partnership*

Johann Saathoff is a German politician of the Social Democratic Party (SPD) who has been serving as a member of the Bundestag from the state of Lower Saxony since 2013. He is a member of the Committee for Food and Agriculture



and the Committee for Economic Affairs and Energy and a Deputy Chair of the Parliamentary Friendship Group for Relations with the ASEAN States. In addition to his parliamentary work, Johan Saathoff has been serving as the German government's Coordinator for Inter-Societal Cooperation with Russia, Central Asia and the Eastern Partnership Countries at the Federal Foreign Office in the coalition government of Chancellor Angela Merkel since 2020. Prior to his MP's role, Johann Saathoff served as the Mayor of Krummhörn, a municipality in the district of Aurich, in Lower Saxony. Johann Saathoff holds a degree in Public Administration from the East Frisian University of Applied Sciences.



#### **LESIA VASYLENKO**

*Holos, Ukraine*

Lesia Vasylenko is a Member of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine. Throughout her studies and her career, she focused largely on human rights and international law issues. Her spheres of professional interest also include sustainable development, social equality, veteran affairs, defence and security. Lesia Vasylenko is a member of the Permanent Delegation to the PACE. She is the Co-Chair of the Energy and Environment Caucus and member of the Equal Opportunities Caucus, which focuses on gender equality issues. Prior to this Lesia Vasylenko worked in the corporate sector, as well as a consultant for the OSCE, the World Bank and NATO. She has founded the Legal Hundred NGO, which today is widely recognised as one of the most successful legal aid organisations in Ukraine. Lesia Vasylenko holds an LLM degree from University College London and a Public International Law degree from the Kyiv National Taras Shevchenko University. She is also an alumna of the International Visitors Leadership Programme, the John Smith Fellowship as well as the GMF's Marshall Memorial Fellowship.



#### **MARIA KARAPETYAN**

*Civil Contract, Armenia*

Maria Karapetyan is a member of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia. Prior to entering institutional politics, Maria was the Development Director of the Imagine Center for Conflict Transformation and one of the Editors of the Caucasus Edition: Journal of Conflict Transformation. She was also a fellow with the Association Rondine Citadel of Peace in Arezzo, Italy and currently serves as a Board Member to the Association. At the National Assembly, Maria is a member of the "My Step" parliamentary group, "Civil Contract" party, and the Standing Committee on the Protection of Human Rights and Public Affairs. She is also a member of the Armenian Delegation to Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE PA) and heads the Armenia-Italy Parliamentary Friendship Group. Maria holds a

BA in Linguistics and Intercultural Communication and an MA in European Studies from Yerevan State University of Languages and Social Sciences. She also holds an MA in Peace Studies from the University of Rome Three



#### **NICU POPESCU**

*Director, Wider Europe programme, the European Council on Foreign Relations*

Nicu Popescu is the director of the Wider Europe programme at the European Council on Foreign Relations focusing on the EU's relations with Russia and the Eastern Partnership countries. In 2019, Popescu served as Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of Moldova. From 2013 – 2018, he worked as a senior analyst at the EU Institute for Security Studies. Prior to that he held various positions such as advisor to the Prime Minister of Moldova, and as a research fellow at the Centre for European Policy Studies in Brussels. Nicu Popescu holds a PhD in International Relations from the Central European University in Budapest, Hungary. He also teaches at Science Po in Paris and has published widely.

# Regional impact stories





## LEADERSHIP AND DEMOCRACY INITIATIVE FOR EASTERN EUROPE

(Since 2017)

### WHAT

In 2017, the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development tasked the German Marshall Fund of the United States through the KfW Development Bank to build leadership constituencies across Armenia, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine in the Eastern Partnership (EaP). Our support encompasses issues of contemporary governance and regional and transatlantic cooperation platforms to explore solutions for advancing democracy. The project places a special emphasis on the involvement of both emerging and established leaders from across sectors and diverse geographies.

### WHY

Empowering transformational leaders and advancing democracy is a key prerequisite for approximation with European Union standards and values. Necessary socio-economic transformations require novel thinking and blending established with new approaches. This calls for initiatives at the local, regional, national and cross-border level. The experience of democracy must be felt beyond capital cities, expanding to regional structures, institutions and individuals.



### HOW

The project includes a series of fellowships and informative programs to empower emerging and established leaders from civil society, media, business and local governments to promote transparent, innovative and inclusive participatory governance in EaP countries. These initiatives explore policy solutions for shared challenges and engage in knowledge transfer and networking. Activities include knowledge transfer (policy development, government accountability, media professionalization, civic engagement and inclusion of minorities), leadership training and fostering professional networks, especially between Germany and EaP countries.

### IMPACT

The project has so far reached over 100 leaders directly (70% women) and several thousand influencers through social media. We have developed two new programs: Leadership Lab and Policy Designers Network. Participant feedback indicates an enhanced understanding of the importance of leadership based on democratic values. Alumni expanded their understanding of contemporary challenges to democracy, explored transatlantic solutions, and became willing to contribute to the transatlantic discourse. We have seen an impressive expansion in the number of professionals who take part in our leadership development, as well as increased engagement overall and in the number of alumni deployment initiatives.



Participant feedback indicates an enhanced understanding of the importance of leadership based on democratic values.

## QUALITY INFRASTRUCTURE FOR MORE TRADE IN THE EASTERN PARTNERSHIP

(Since 2018)

Quality infrastructure is necessary for securing access to new markets, improving productivity, enabling innovation and ensuring environmental and consumer protection.



### WHAT

This project supports the establishment of quality infrastructure in the Eastern Partnership (EaP) countries and is implemented by Germany's national metrology institute, the Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt. 'Quality in-frastructure' refers to the ecosystem of public and private institutions, as well as legal and regulatory frameworks and practices that establish and implement standardisation, accreditation, metrology and conformity assessment (inspection, testing and certification). We are fostering exchanges within and across EaP countries and building up technical capacities together with partner institutions, national accreditation bodies and market surveillance agencies.

### WHY

Quality infrastructure is necessary for securing access to new markets, improving productivity, enabling innovation and ensuring environmental and consumer protection. Building up relevant quality infrastructure capabilities is, therefore, decisive for the effective use, adaptation and innovation of technologies. The development strategies of the EaP partner countries seek to enhance exports, competitiveness and consumer protection. An effective quality infrastructure is necessary to achieve these goals. Compliance with international quality requirements and standards is crucial to participate in international trade and supply chains. Safeguarding public health and safety, consumer, environmental and social protection are other key benefits.

### HOW

We combine country-specific capacity development with regional exchanges to strengthen regional cooperation. Creating networks for a technical exchange between the partners, coupled with knowledge transfer from more developed countries, enables partner countries to comply with international and European best practices for accreditation and market surveillance.

### IMPACT

Modern and consumer-oriented quality infrastructures improve the competitiveness of the economy as well as consumer safety. Thus, the project seeks a two-fold impact: strengthening the integration of national companies into global value chains through a more effective accreditation system; and improving the quality of life through more efficient market surveillance procedures. Through this, both economic and societal resilience are strengthened. At the same time, those partner countries with EU association agreements are better prepared for approximation with EU standards.



## BROADENING HORIZONS FOR SUCCESSFUL REFORMS THE EASTERN PARTNERSHIP REGIONAL FUND

(Since 2016)

### WHAT

On behalf of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, the German development agency GIZ supports partners in the Eastern Partnership (EaP) countries for the purpose of successfully implementing public administration reforms through 12 cross-country projects.

### WHY

Public administrations that are transparent, citizen-centred and accountable are essential for democracy. The governments of the EaP countries face significant challenges in effectively implementing necessary and highly complex reforms. A key challenge for EU association countries is making the advantages of EU association tangible for their citizens – including those living outside the capital cities. Due to their respective historical legacies, the public administrations of EaP countries remain inefficient. Institutional and legal frameworks must also be developed to enable these public administrations to operate effectively.

### HOW

We foster regional exchange and capacity-building in cooperation with ministries, regional authorities, local government entities and civil society. Our activities cover transnational knowledge sharing, capacity-building of stakeholders relevant to reforms and making reform benefits tangible for citizens and public administration staff. Tailor-made workshops, study trips and training courses offer participants learning opportunities. Our work is anchored in the public administration principles established by SIGMA, a joint initiative of the OECD and the EU.

### IMPACT

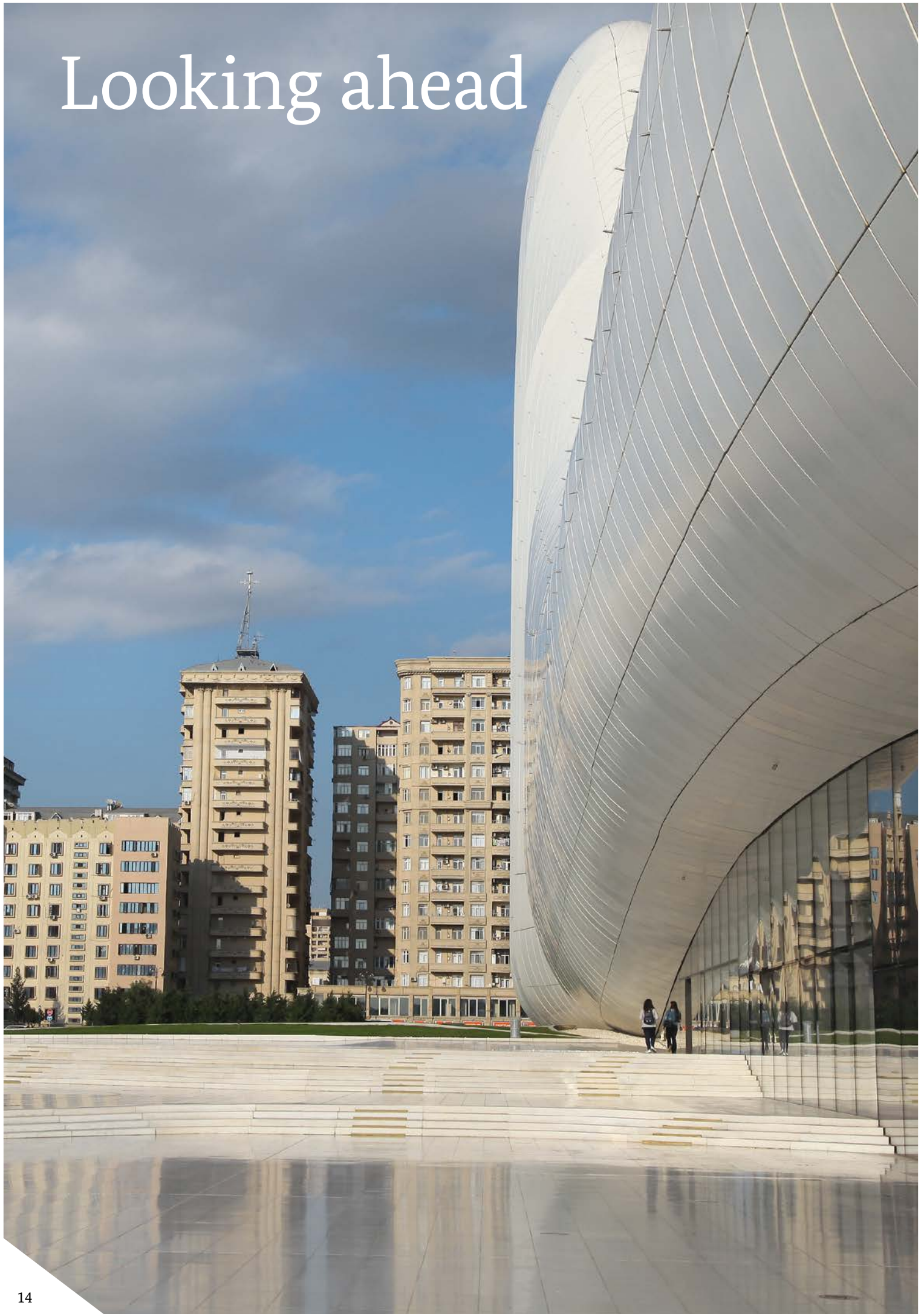
We have so far reached more than 2,000 public officials, who have now developed a common vision of the benefits of EU association and a responsive public administration. The following examples illustrate this:

- New expert networks for parliamentary administration and research, civil service training and regional development;
- Piloting of e-participation tools on public budgeting and infrastructure;
- Establishment of communities of practitioners in trade associations and the implementation of 'Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Areas';
- Transnational capacity-building to monitor the implementation of Agenda 2030.

Our activities cover transnational knowledge sharing, capacity-building of stakeholders relevant to reforms and making reform benefits tangible for citizens and public administration staff.



# Looking ahead







We combine thematic panels with inspiring leaders from all sectors with thematic deep dives in parallel working groups focusing on three timely and pertinent issues: i) building better economies that are firmly anchored in regional & global value chains through ii) better multi-level governance and iii) better engagement of civil society. A fourth working group will discuss EaP deliverables in greater detail. These fundamentals are prerequisites for achieving the goals of the European Green Deal and for reaping the benefits of digitisation.

The inputs from the conference will help us to define our future approach towards the region. Our main goal is to collectively create proposals for the post-2020 deliverables that address development needs and exhibit regional value added. Measuring and monitoring progress will be an important task ahead: through well-defined milestones and targets as well as via a new monitoring mechanism for rule of law.

The discussions will feed into a study by the European Council on Foreign Relations and a policy brief to disseminate the results of the event back into the policy debate.

Our main goal is to collectively create proposals for the post-2020 deliverables that address development needs and exhibit regional value added.

↑ Impressions from (clockwise, beginning top left): the Bridge of Peace in Tbilisi (Georgia), the monastery Khor Virap, located in the Ararat plain (Armenia), the old town square in Lviv (Ukraine), the city gate of Chisinau (Moldova).

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