

Recommendations from NGO European Choice (Ukraine, Poltava Region) to the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum, 16-17 of November, 2009, Brussels

Dear Colleagues!

Thank you very much for possibilities to make our contribution to EPSCF. We are really appreciating this. We are fully agreed within the Ukraine Delegation recommendations, but want to add some important remarks about SCF OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES.

As a professional local NGO within the 7 years of experience in communication, monitoring and education we see the SCF as a

- Platform for cross-culture and cross-country CSO's communications;
- Platform for professional development our monitoring and communication skills/tools;
- Platform for sharing the innovations from EU to EaP6 countries;

1. Recommendations on the Forum structures;

We agreed with our colleagues from UA Delegation to SCF.

2. Recommendations on the Eastern Partnership structure:

We purpose to create long-term instrument of SCF - **Innovation Dialog Action (IDA)**

EP Innovation Dialog Action (EPIDA) – will be operation project of FORUM for 6 neighbors countries, which aimed to

1. Foster dialog between local communities and inventors and
2. Search, select and promote innovation ideas (start-up's) at following fields (platform 3):
 - Climate change preventions and relevant simple actions
 - Energy efficiency at local communities
 - Environment protection instruments and policy

EPIDA – is a one year circle operation program. Each EaP6 country will be asked to take part in this program. EPIDA main tool - “**EaP Innovation Dialog Competition**” Competition will *involve, educate* and *promote* the IDEAS of the local *inventors* and *successful local communities* in each country.

Innovation of EPIDA – we believe that financial crisis can be combated via NEW and INNOVATIVE ideas, unusual solving of old problems. As a result of **EPIDA** will be:

1. Started new innovative projects at platform 3 field;
2. New authors and inventors involved into EaP and EU tools;
3. Up to 10 000 people take part in Competition Events (presentation, training);
4. Inventors, businesses, CSO and GOV's involved in cross-country **dialog**
5. Final IDEAS is funded and multiplied by other EU bodies/agencies/programs;
6. Applied IDEAS supports to prevent climate change, save energy, protect environment.

EaP Innovation Dialog Competition will have next time-line:

February – March = 6 EPIDA presentations in partner countries

April - July = Regional competitions, semi-finals

September = 6 trainings of EU experts for semi-finalists

September = preparation of final applications/consulting of semi-finalists

October = Expert council select most interesting ideas (start-up's) for FINAL

November = Communications with EU donors and agencies

December = EaP Innovation Dialog Competition Final Ceremony

January = follow up winners application and projects

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Who will get benefits from EPIDA?

- **Governments**, through involving into pre-selection process, selecting most effective ideas, co-funding and supporting of selected start-up`s.
- **Local Business**, through involving into pre-selection process, and discovery new effective know-how`s.
- **CSO from EaP counties**, through participation in **EPIDA** actions across EP countries, sharing information about competition, organizing **EPIDA** events in international and EP country level`s.

EaPIDA annual *International* Events:

- Presentation of **EPIDA Competition** at annual Forum meeting;
- EP Cross-country analysis of Innovation Activity. Set the common and different problems at this field;
- Promotion of winners start-up`s and IDEAS in EU;
- Preparing the Annual Recommendation Paper for ENPI in the field of **EPIDA**
- Publishing the **Catalogue of Best Ideas** gathered during annual circle of EPIDA

EaPIDA annual *Internal* Events:

- Monitoring and reporting in Innovation Activity in EP partners countries;
- Creating and updating web-page of EPIDA for each country – within the full information about Competition process – obtained proposals, ideas, start-up`s, semi-finals, e-training materials, etc;
- Lobbying the interests of involved CSO and IDEAS at national level within the support of country ENPI officials in each country;
- Preparing annual EPIDA White Book with recommendations for local governments at the field of climate change, save energy, protect environment;
- Wide public awareness and education campaigns (through National University`s, associations and CSO, techno-parks, business-incubators, media) about business operation standarts and start-up within the focus on IT;
- 6 trainings for semi-finalists of competition within the focus on project and start-up development, EU tools and sources for implementation ideas, knowledge transferring;
- 1 final ceremony`s in which FORUM participants take part within the EU/ENPI/EP/EPIDA experts involving, winners from 6 countries (30 person);

Sources and funding of EPIDA project:

- Via ENPI support grants;
- Via EC direct income into SCF annual activity;
- Via local (country) donor and foundation cost share;
- Via Sponsorship of Local Competitions from business;

Terms of EPIDA – January 2010 – December 2013

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See you at Forum!

Best,

European Choice