

## Ukraine-Moldova Civil Society Task Force

After the last year parliamentary election Moldova government has ever stronger focus on European integration processes. Ukraine, after the recent presidential elections, also has a new government inherited pro-European integration stand, what, however, remained much as a rhetoric lacking practical steps. The Yanukovich government certainly has greater internal coherence than its predecessor, thus could stem up this process. However, both countries inherited Soviet institutional set up of executive authorities that have been hampering implementation of political, economic and social reforms.

Importantly, current Moldavian leaders seem to possess political will toward reforms, similarly to Ukrainian leaders after the Orange Revolution. However, in Ukraine the old type administrative system as well as the overwhelming rent seeking provided significant resistance. Now, the experience of various Ukrainian stakeholders piling up regarding the integration processes could be utilized in Moldova.

Ukrainian civic experts see many issues of the two countries facing are inter-connected (such as Association Agreement and its implementation). Going even further their take is that Moldova is one of the key countries for Ukraine to re-assert its regional position through a different attitude in its foreign policy. If Ukraine is Moldova's partner it should think of what it can do *with* Moldova, not *for* Moldova - this is guiding principle of the Ukraine-Moldova Task Force.

### What is Task Force?

The idea behind the Task Force is to engage in assistance and facilitate expertise of Ukraine civil society in cooperation with Moldovan NGOs in the current transition processes of Moldova. The Task Force builds upon existing civic expertise aims to give a helping hand to both governments, but also expert communities, the media as well as the international community to handle Moldova right.

Thus, the objective of the Task Force is three-fold: a) to concentrate Ukrainian efforts of providing transition experience exchange toward Moldova, b) facilitate in depth analysis on Moldova transition, c) accelerate Ukrainian foreign policy toward Moldova.

### Activities:

Building on previous cooperation between Ukrainian and Moldovan civil society the Task Force is working on the following issues;

The [International Centre for Policy Studies](#) carries out the **economic transition** component. It experts' examine economic liberalization, path to growth and trade issues to deliver long-term social benefits and security as well as trying to identify the expected clash of rent seeking and reform possibilities based on Ukraine's experience. This component is aimed at fostering regional cooperation on critical administrative and regulatory reforms in the field of economic governance in order to help advance Moldova's convergence with the European Union.

The **nation building component** is ensured by the [Pylyp Orlyk Institute for Democracy](#). Their experts' efforts will be concentrated on the identity and state unity to strengthen the country's international security. In particular, the issue of Gagauziya and the minorities living there will be carefully studied and reflected upon in the policy recommendation on becoming viable and coherent national entities.

**Good governance and democracy** is under the auspices of the [Institute for Euro-Atlantic Cooperation \(IEAC\)](#). Its policy research will focus on critical reforms that ensure democratic and effective governance to safeguard civil liberties and advance urgent policy-reforms based on the lesson learned from Ukraine. Thus, mainly the component focuses on constitutional reforms, good governance, administrative reforms, migration, border security, visa policies, rule of law and judicial reform.

In the framework of the cross border program, Pact will assist and facilitate the bilateral cooperation and civil society exchanges of Ukraine and Moldova. Pact will provide peer review and assistance to its Ukrainian (and later on Moldovan) partners to target the policy briefs, providing communication and logistics assistance toward the Task Force outreach.

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