



**REPORT\***  
**1-3 JULY: EAP CONFERENCE**  
**„PROMOTING COLLABORATION IN THE FIELD OF YOUTH”**

**SUMMARY OF THE CONFERENCE**

Georgia, Tbilisi. 1-3 July, 2014. --- Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs of Georgia (MSY) in partnership with EU Commission, SALTO, EPYRU and EU delegation to Georgia organized “Eastern Partnership Conference: Promoting collaboration in the field of youth” in order to support cross-sectional cooperation between the stakeholders working in the field of youth policy, to share information and best practices, to raise awareness on EU programs (e.g. ERASMUS +) and to promote reforms in the field. The event took place in “Holiday Inn” Tbilisi.

**THE AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE CONFERENCE:**

- To contribute to strengthening cooperation in the field of youth policy between EU Commission and EaP countries;
- to promote bilateral and multilateral cooperation among EaP states’ institutions, agencies and organizations;
- to raise awareness on EU’s new initiative “ERASMUS +” and other related EU programs;
- to support ongoing reforms in the field of youth policy in EaP countries;
- to promote cross-sectorial cooperation on national level;
- to share information and experience on planning and implementation of youth policy;
- to facilitate new contacts and develop existing partnership between stakeholders.

**PARTICIPANTS**

In the framework of the conference, more than 200 representatives from numerous organizations participated in the events. The participants presented: EaP (Eastern Partnership Program) states’ Ministries responsible for youth from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine; Governmental agencies and local authorities; international and local NGOs; experts, international institutions & delegations - EU Commission Youth Unit, VISEGRAD, ERYICA; SALTO; EPYRU, Council of Europe Mission in Georgia, EU Delegation to Georgia.

See the [list of participants](#).

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*\* This report is prepared by International Relations Division, Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs of Georgia. 10-July-2014*

## AGENDA AND METHODOLOGY

In the scope of the conference, the following events took place: panel discussions, “ERASMUS +” informational day, workshop and roundtable; bilateral and multilateral meetings.

See the [Agenda of the conference](#).

## OUTCOMES

According to the agenda of the conference, below you will find speeches, summaries, presentations and additional information on the topics. These materials will serve as a background for further steps to address the issues with enhanced policies, standards and monitoring, as well as research and new initiatives.

It should be noted, that interest from the local media outlets toward the conference was very high. Senior officials from the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs of Georgia and representatives from SALTO, EU Youth Unit and NGO Academy for Peace and Development participated in live broadcasted three TV programs: “IMEDIS DILA” (TV Imedi); “SHUA DGE” (1 channel, Public Broadcaster); “DILA” (TV GDS).

There were other local TV, news agencies and printing media disseminated information about the Conference from the spot. Interaction with users in social-media was ensured by Public Relations Division of Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs of Georgia. Through mass-media outlets the organizers and participants of the conference informed public on the current development in the field of youth, available opportunities for youth in “ERASMUS +”, importance of youth inclusion and participation in decision making and other related topics.

### ***Check links for videos:***

[Public Broadcaster’s Program, part 1](#) (1 July, 2014)

[Public Broadcaster’s Program, part 2](#)

[TV Program at Imedi](#) (1 July, 2014)

[TV Program at GDS](#) (2 July, 2014)

### ***Other TV reports:***

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8\\_CFI7pzjsc](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8_CFI7pzjsc)

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BG2\\_P6bbpdA](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BG2_P6bbpdA)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R93VUA5VY4k>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=COqMi5WLpDE>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5iPpWjO4I14>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ahxlrNoRFBg>

### ***Photo gallery by conference dates:***

[Conference Day 1](#)

[Conference Day 2](#)

[Bilateral meeting at the Ministry](#)

[Conference Day 3](#)

## 1 JULY, TUESDAY

The 1<sup>st</sup> day of the conference included 4 sessions, namely: 1) opening ceremony; 2) EaP's countries presentation on youth policy developments; 3) overview of international programs/platforms supporting youth; 4) panel discussion on promotion of cross-sectorial collaboration between EaP states.

### **OPENING CEREMONY**

Honorable guests delivered welcome speeches during the opening ceremony.

- H.E. LEVAN KIPIANI, Minister of Sport and Youth Affairs of Georgia (Click the link to download [Speech](#));
- H.E. Ambassador PHILIP DIMITROV, Head of the EU delegation;
- H.E. Ambassador ADRZEJ CIESZKOWSKI, Embassy of Poland to Georgia;
- Ms. CATERINA BOLOGNESE, Head of Council of Europe Office in Georgia;
- Mr. PASCAL LEJEUNE, Head of Youth Unit, EU Commission.

### **SESSION 1.**

#### **EAP'S COUNTRIES PRESENTATION ON YOUTH POLICY DEVELOPMENTS**

This session aimed to share information and experience on planning and implementation of youth policy in the EaP's states.

[Youth policy developments in Georgia.](#) Presenter - Mr. Rati Bregadze, Deputy Minister of Sport and Youth Affairs of Georgia. **Keynotes:** State's youth policy 2014-2020; Action plan for implementation of the state's youth policy; European values & youth in Georgia; EU - Georgia Association Agreement, cross-sectorial collaboration in the field of youth; youth participation; international cooperation; youth program priorities.

[Youth policy developments in Armenia.](#) Presenter – Mrs. Tamara Torosyan, Head of cooperation and analysis unit at youth department, Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs of Armenia. **Keynotes:** Youth policy, legal framework, aims and objectives; priorities; supporting local NGOs; programs.

[Youth policy developments in Azerbaijan.](#) Presenter – Mrs. Indira Hajiyeveva, Head of Youth Department, Ministry of Youth and Sport of Azerbaijan. **Keynotes:** youth policy, programs & priorities, legal framework; institutional agencies for implementation of youth policy; principles of youth policy; supporting youth; NGOs indicators and involvement; statistics; grants for NGOs, international collaboration.

[Youth policy developments in Belarus.](#) Presenter – Mr. Viktor Yakjik, Deputy Minister of Education of the Republic of Belarus. **Keynotes:** youth policy; statistic data on youth; volunteering; programs; youth employment, NGOs, infrastructure, cooperation with EaP countries; international initiatives.

[Youth policy developments in Moldova](#). Presenter – Mr. Sergiu Stanciu, Deputy Minister of Youth and Sports of Moldova. **Keynotes:** youth policy strategy 2014 - 2020, legal framework youth policy; evaluation of youth strategy 2009-2013; priorities.

[Youth policy developments in Ukraine](#). Presenter – H.E. Minister Dmytro Bulatov, Ministry of Youth and Sports of Ukraine. **Keynotes:** youth policy analysis - evidence gathering; non-formal education; employment; healthy life-style; housing; challenges; programs; international cooperation.

## SESSION 2.

### **OVERVIEW OF INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS/PLATFORMS SUPPORTING YOUTH POLICY DEVELOPMENT**

The session aimed to contribute to strengthening cooperation in the field of youth policy between EU Commission and EaP countries through sharing practices in the related areas. The speakers emphasized existing opportunities for supporting ongoing reforms in the field of youth, promotion of cross-sectorial cooperation on national and regional levels. Representatives of EU Youth Commission and SALTO presented summary of the EU's previous program – "Youth in Action" and provided detailed information on the EU's new initiative "Erasmus +".

[Youth in Action development in EaP countries in 2007 – 2013](#). Presenter - Mr. Andiy Pavlovych, coordinator of SALTO Eastern Europe and Caucasus Resource Centre. **Keynotes:** Aims and objectives of Youth in Action; statistics and data on EVS volunteers in EaP countries; grants; projects; Eastern Partnership Youth window.

[Sharing best practices on EVS and international youth activities](#). Speaker – Mrs. Tata Beria, NGO Droni; Mrs. Ioanna Sakellarakis, EVS.

Erasmus +: Promotion of international youth cooperation in between EU and EaP countries (Verbal presentation). Presenter – Mr. Pascal Lejeune, Head of Youth Unit, EU Commission. **Keynotes:** Overview of Erasmus +; new opportunities; allocation of financial resources; mechanisms for grants; applications; supporting youth policy development; youth participation.

[Developing cross-sectorial cooperation in EaP countries](#). Presenter – Ms. Evgeniia Petrivska, key expert on youth policy, EPYRU. **Keynotes:** EPYRU in brief; priorities and evaluation of the unit's work; EU youth strategy 2010-2018; cross-sectorial cooperation in EaP countries; challenges and opportunities; recommendations.

[Strengthening cooperation between VISEGRAD and EaP states](#). Presenter – Ms. Eva Masarova, Head of Youth Department, Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of Slovakia. **Keynotes:** review of cooperation with EaP countries; priorities for 2015; VISEGRAD FUND.

[Streaming information on youth issues among stakeholders, best practices \(.pdf\)](#). Presenter – Mr. Davide Capecci, Director of ERYICA. **Keynotes:** youth information and counseling as a policy tool; survey on impact of youth information and counseling, Nov. 2013; compendium on National Youth Information and counseling structures. Download [Presentation in Prezi](#) format

### **SESSION 3. PANEL DISCUSSION.**

#### **PROMOTING CROSS-SECTORIAL COLLABORATION IN THE FIELD OF YOUTH BETWEEN EAP**

**COUNTRIES. MODERATOR – MR. GIORGI KAKULIA, PRESIDENT OF ACADEMY FOR PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT OF GEORGIA.**

Youth policy can't advance without effective coordination with other sectors. Through cross-sectorial cooperation stakeholders ensure - that policy making takes into account youth people's conditions and needs and other policy domains (e.g. social affairs, education, employment, etc.) are made aware of the specific issues faced by young people.

The main aims and objectives of the discussion were to share information on challenges stakeholders meet in the scope of cross-sectorial collaboration in the field of youth and to find solutions to address the challenges. The parties informed the audience on their experience and provided general ideas on possibilities to improve cross-sectorial cooperation.

#### ***Panelists:***

- Mr. Paskal Lejeune, Head of Youth Unit, EU Commission;
- Mr. Giorgi Kikalishvili, President, Youth Association Droni
- Mr. Rati Bregadze, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs of Georgia
- Mr. Tomasz Bratek, Director, SALTO
- Mr. Ion Donea, Youth Programs Department, Ministry of Youth and Sport of Moldova;
- Mr. Maxim Karpiy, Advisor to Minister, Ministry of Youth and Sports of Ukraine.

The panelists agreed that there is no universal principle or recommendation for stakeholders on best model of cross-sectorial collaboration. This cooperation is more about the structured dialogue, process rather than a tool for implementation youth policy. One of the main factors to ensure successful cross-sectorial cooperation is to have a political will and political accord on the ground for such collaboration.

#### ***Keynotes made during the panel discussion:***

ERASMUS + is a good opportunity to develop and contribute to cross-sectorial cooperation in EaP countries. ERASMUS + covers mostly all sectors related to young people.

The panelists proposed an initiative to launch discussions and draft concepts on concrete models for EaP youth cross-sectorial cooperation.

Involvement of private and business sector in youth policy development can significantly impact on the process. The main challenge for this engagement is a lack of interest and benefits for business. Stakeholders should develop targeted proposal and consider interest of private sectors, e.g. increasing loyalty to a particular products/company through engagement. Business sector can significantly contribute to tackling youth unemployment.

From NGOs perspectives cross-sectorial cooperation is a good platform to raise awareness on work and activities implemented by civil society; to learn youth needs and challenges existed on the ground; to develop more targeted initiatives and programs.

**2 JULY, WEDNESDAY**

**BILATERAL MEETINGS**

***Minister Levan Kipiani and Deputy Minister Rati Bregadze met representatives of the Youth Unit of the EU Commission.***

At the meeting with Mr. Pascal Lejeune, Mr. Artur Payer and Mr. Oliver Risener the sides stressed their attention on the fact that the EU-Georgia Association Agreement paves the way for a new era in relations between the sides, namely in the field of youth policy. Minister Kipiani informed EU officials on the upcoming reforms to be planned and implemented in Georgia: recognition of non-formal education, youth work, legislation on youth affairs, as well as establishment of youth centers throughout Georgia. The officials of the Youth Unit welcomed and appreciated Ministry's efforts and suggested to use "ERASMUS +" as a tool for supporting reforms on the ground. Also, the Youth Unit representatives informed Minister that one of the main priorities for the next couple of months of the EU Youth direction will be setting standards for non-formal education (guide, which will incorporate suggestions and recommendation. e.g. quality system for youth workers). Awareness rising on the "ERASMUS +" among the local stakeholders was on the agenda during the meeting. Minister Kipiani, express his interest to discuss and analyze establishment of "ERASMUS +" information center in Georgia, which would disseminated information on existed opportunities in the scope of the EU program. It was mentioned, that similar center already operates in Tbilisi, but it focuses mainly on formal education. In this regards, there is a room and a need to inform people on opportunities on non-formal education, youth exchanges, trainings, cultural dialogues, workshops and etc.

Learn more on ERASMUS + at [http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/index_en.htm)

***Meeting between the representatives of MSY and VISEGRAD***

Participants form MSY: Vakhtang Asanidze, Deputy Head of Youth Department; Akaki Jamburia, Chief Specialist at International Relations Division; Vasil Liparteliani, Chief specialist at Analytical Department.

Participants from VISEGRAD team: Mrs. Eva Masarova, Head of Youth Department, Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic; Mrs. Marcela Hajtmankova, Head of National Agency Youth in Action, Slovak Youth Institute; Mr. Tibor Skrabsky, Expert at Slovak Youth Institute.

The main item on the agenda for talks was developing multilateral cooperation between VISEGRAD and the EaP countries in the field of youth. There are discussions in VESEGRAD on possibility to promote collaboration with the EaP states through creating a legal document – Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on cooperation in the field of youth. It is expected that by the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2014 VISEGRAD will draft the first version of MoU to be reviewed by the EaP states. It was mentioned, that after MoU text is mutually agreed, the parties would develop bilateral action plans for the EaP each country for implementation of the commitments taken under the MoU.

At the meeting, the sides expressed their readiness to take an active role to foster coordination and communication process for drafting and discussing MoU text between the parties.

Learn more on VISEGRAD and VISEGRAD 4 Eastern Partnership Program at <http://visegradfund.org/v4eap/>

## ***Meeting between Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs of Georgia (MSY) and European Youth Information and Counseling Agency (ERYICA)***

*Participants from MSY:* Mr. Rati Bregadze, Deputy Minister; Mr. Vakhtang Asanidze, Deputy Head of Youth Department; Mr. Akaki Jamburia, Chief Specialist of International Relations Division;  
*Participant from ERYICA:* Mr. Davide Capecchi, Director.

The meeting was an introductory one. Deputy Minister informed on the milestones of the youth policy development in Georgia. Special emphasize was made on non-formal education program which is being developing by the MSY.

David Capecchi informed MSY officials on the different ways and possibilities of developing youth information and counseling centers and services throughout Georgia.

The parties agreed that they will cooperate in the scope of developing non-formal education program in Georgia. MSY will consider involvement of ERYICA to provide training courses for youth workers in Georgia.

The Parties expressed readiness to strengthen cooperation on the international level through the Joint Coordinating Committee between Council of Europe and ERYICA.

*More info on ERYICA:* <http://eryica.org/>

## **2 JULY, WEDNESDAY**

### **ERASMUS + INFORMATIONAL DAY**

At the 2nd day of the Conference, the informational day on ERASMUS + took place. Around 100 representatives from local NGOs, municipalities and youth related public authorities attended the event and got detailed information on the program, application process, eligibilities and other related topics. EU Youth Unit & SALTO representatives made presentations. The aims of the session was to raise awareness on EU's new initiative "ERASMUS +" and other related EU programs among the participants. After the thematic presentations made by keynote speakers, participants were split in 3 working groups: 1) Youth Exchanges; 2) European Voluntary Service; 3) Mobility projects for youth workers. In the framework of WG participants got practical information and advises on each domain.

**Download** [presentation on ERASMUS+](#), prepared by SALTO Eastern Europe and Caucasus Region.  
**Keynotes:** Education, training and youth; Eligible countries; Programme Countries; KEY ACTIONS; Mobility projects for young people and youth workers; Youth Exchanges; European Voluntary Service; Mobility of youth workers; Support for policy reform; organizations with valid EVS accreditations in Georgia; SALTO EECA aims & objectives, main activities;

For more information on **SALTO Eastern Europe and Caucasus Region** visit:  
<https://www.salto-youth.net/>

**3 JULY, THURSDAY**

**WORKSHOP: Capacity analysis in the field of cross-sectorial cooperation  
for youth related governmental institutions**

The workshop was dedicated to promote cross-sectorial cooperation on national level through providing expertise on best practices and know-how on the issues. Around 70 representatives from NGOs (operating in the capital Tbilisi and regions of Georgia), local municipalities and sectorial ministries participated in the workshop. Ms. Evgeniia Petrivska, key expert on youth policy at EPYRU (Eastern Partnership Youth Regional Unit) and Mr. Behrooz Motamed-Afshari, international youth policy expert made presentations and shared relevant information. Training sessions on “the best practice of cross sectorial collaboration” and “cross-sectorial collaboration in the field of youth policy” were moderated by Rati Cheishvili, key expert on youth policy and action plan making process and Ms. Rodami Tsomaia, Regional Peace and reintegration Network respectively. After these sessions, in the scope of working groups participants defined challenges and elaborate their recommendation on fostering cross-sectorial collaboration in the field of youth.

According to the recommendations of the working groups there are following challenges (general) on the ground: lack of communication between stakeholders; information shortage in remote areas; lack of evidence based policies/programs; distribution of competences between stakeholders. Possible solutions to address the challenges: trainings, experts’ missions, workshops and roundtables, study tours, active engagement of the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs of Georgia as a facilitator (leading agency) for cross-sectorial cooperation.

The workshop and its program were developed by the EPYRU in partnership with the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs of Georgia.

***Download materials from the workshop:***

[Presentation of Eastern partnership program \(objectives, tasks and methodology\).](#)

[Annex 1 Ministries involved in cross-sectorial cooperation on youth issues;](#)

[Annex 2 Examples of EaP country’s regional and local cross-sectorial cooperation.](#)

Speaker – Ms. Evgeniia Petrivska, Key expert on youth policy, EPYRU

[The best practice of cross-sectorial collaboration.](#) Speaker Mr. Rati Cheishvili, key expert on youth policy (in Georgian language)

[Improving mechanisms and develop methods to create and cross-sectorial commission.](#) Speaker – Mr. Behrooz Motamed-Afshari, international youth policy expert, EPYRU

[Cross-sectorial collaboration in the field of youth policy.](#) Speaker – Ms. Rodami Tsomaia, Regional Peace and Reintegration Network (in Georgian language)

[Recommendations](#) of the WG “The realities of cross-sectorial collaboration” (in Georgian language)

[Recommendations](#) of the WG “Cross-sectorial collaboration between ministries” (in Georgia language)



## **ROUNDTABLE:** **Youth Policy and Youth Work stakeholders in Georgia**

In the framework of the Conference, a Roundtable with participation (in total 30 persons) of governmental agencies, international and regional organizations, National Council of Youth Organizations of Georgia and local multipliers of Youth in Action program was organized. Mr. Giorgi Kakulia facilitated the roundtable, which had the following objectives: to share information on achievements and developments in the field of youth; to identify common areas for joint activities; to identify opportunities for deepening cooperation between the stakeholders. Participants of the event made presentation on missions and programs carried by their institutions. There were two working groups set after the presentations session to analyze opportunities for common working ground, find out synergies and to identify areas for closer cooperation.

The WGs made the following findings for common fields of activities: youth inclusion, youth information and consultancy, non-formal education (promotion of foreign language studies was underlined); youth policy development and implementation; active involvement of young people living in remote areas in EVS volunteering, increasing capacity of civil servants.

### ***Download presentations made at the roundtable:***

[Presentation of the UNFPA Office in Georgia](http://georgiaunfpa.ge/). Speaker – Ms. Lela Bakradze. Keynotes: Cooperation between UNFPA and the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs of Georgia; research and policy dialogue; analytical papers; coordination; awareness rising; programs. For more info check: <http://georgiaunfpa.ge/>

[Presentation of Children and Youth Development Fund of Georgia](http://www.fondi.gov.ge) (CYDF). Speaker – Mr. Irakli Jorjoliani, Director of the Fund. Keynotes: CYDF is the only governmental legal entity providing targeted financial support / grants in the field of youth; priorities of the fund are human rights, civil society, sport, regional development and other. For more info check [www.fondi.gov.ge](http://www.fondi.gov.ge)

[Presentation of the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs of Georgia](http://www.msy.gov.ge) (MSY). Speaker – Mr. Vakhtang Asanidze, Deputy Head of Youth Affairs Department of MSY. Keynotes: priorities for 2014; special programs; non-formal education developments, drafting youth law. For more info check: [www.msy.gov.ge](http://www.msy.gov.ge)

[Presentation of the Center for crime prevention, Ministry of Justice of Georgia](http://www.justice.gov.ge). **Keynotes:** rehabilitation and re-socialization program, leadership house & youth club. The programs of the center are based on the youth policy, but the center is caring out its work independently. The center plans to apply for EVS accreditation. More at: [www.justice.gov.ge](http://www.justice.gov.ge)

Presentation of “People in Need, PiN” (NGO). Speaker – Ms. Sophio Motsonelidze. **Keynotes:** “People in Need” operates in Georgia since 2005. Organization has beneficiaries in Imereti, Samegrelo, Shida Kartli and Tbilisi region. “PiN” has been implementing projects for IDPs, entrepreneurs, farmers, NGOs and local government authorities. Priorities of the organization are: rural economic development, civil

society development, education. Main donors of PiN are EU commission and the Government of Czech republic. More at: [www.pin.ge](http://www.pin.ge)

[Presentation of Children and Youth National Center](#). Speaker – Ms. Tamta Khutsishvili. Keynotes: priorities and programs of CYNC. More at: [www.cync.ge](http://www.cync.ge)

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