



Civil Society Dialogue Network Geographic Meeting

Nagorno-Karabakh: Continuing EU support for building peace – Gathering civil society input

Tuesday 12 May 2015, Brussels

KEY POINTS

This document is a compilation of some of the key points made by individual participants in the Civil Society Dialogue Network (CSDN) Geographic Meeting 'Nagorno-Karabakh: Continuing EU support for building peace – Gathering civil society input' which took place on Tuesday 12 May 2015 in Brussels.

The meeting was held under the Chatham House Rule. As such, the following points may not be attributed to any participating individual or institution nor do they necessarily represent the views of all of the meeting participants, the European Peacebuilding Office (EPLO) and its member organisations, or the co-organisers.

A full report of the meeting will be available soon.

Session 1: Current context of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict settlement process

- The gains which civil society organisations (CSOs) have been made so far in terms of creating space for working need to be preserved.
- CSOs need to identify innovative approaches for working in the region.
- There is a need to work in European countries to change intransigent attitudes of the diaspora populations towards the other side.
- There is a need for a holistic approach encompassing work at various levels; working at the grassroots level alone is insufficient.
- There is a need to move away from the assumption that the alternative to the status quo is peace.

Session 2: Lessons learned by project implementers, partners and beneficiaries

- There is a need to achieve a critical mass of actors in order to increase the impact of activities.
- It would be useful to continue the efforts which have been made to link Track I and Track II activities.
- CSOs need to do greater public outreach in order to create a vision for peace.
- Members of the EPNK consortium need to find a happy medium between sharing information and analysis, and undertaking joint advocacy.
- CSOs need to build in strategies for dealing with governments.

- There is a need for a single overall dialogue process into which the multiple existing processes can feed continuously.
- There is a need for an external actor to build a platform of CSOs and for them to have regular meetings. However, any efforts aimed at encouraging organisations to work together need to have a clear purpose.
- There is a need to reach out to people living in border territories.
- It is possible for CSOs to work in Azerbaijan. However, they need to think carefully about how they frame their activities.
- The EPNK consortium should try to build coalitions and use different forms of leverage both individually and collectively.

Session 3: Ideas for future support to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict settlement process

- Conduct peace polling
- Empower local actors, including through the establishment of a significant small grant scheme
- Support the development of a regional think tank
- Undertake mapping of projects which have had a positive impact
- Use the EPNK to disseminate information (e.g. CSO activities, funding opportunities etc.)
- The EUSR could chair a biannual process on strengthening the links between Track I and Track II activities
- Continue support for cross-border dialogues

Civil Society Dialogue Network

The Civil Society Dialogue Network (CSDN) is a mechanism for dialogue between civil society and EU policy-makers on issues related to peace and conflict. It is co-financed by the European Union (Instrument for Stability). It is managed by the European Peacebuilding Liaison Office (EPLO), a civil society network, in co-operation with the European Commission (EC) and the European External Action Service (EEAS). The second phase of the CSDN will last from 2014 to 2016. For more information, please visit the [EPLO website](#).

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