

SHORT REPORT

ON THE WORKSHOP "LIBERAL MESSAGES IN EUROPE"

Kyiv, Ukraine, 18 JUNE , 2019

The second workshop took place on 18th of June at Hotel Radisson in Kyiv. The moderator and coordinator of the event was Raimar Wagner, project coordinator for Romania of FNF. The introduction and opening were made by Daniel Kaddik, executive director European Liberal Forum, followed by a welcome address made by Beate Apelt, Friedrich-Naumann-Foundation for Freedom Ukraine and Belarus. The workshop brought together over 20 participants from a wide range of political and civil society sectors involved in the Eastern Partnership theme. All speakers emphasised the importance of the topic and the debate on the ground to transport at the end of the project all key findings to Brussel, because it is a two-way-road: What want Brussel from the country but also, what want the country from the partnership.

In the first part of the workshop the panel was opened by mr. Denis Cenusa, a moldovan Researcher at the Justus Liebig University, Gießen, Germany. He presented the key findings from the first Workshop and also the situation in Moldova and in Georgia regarding this topic. The situation in Ukraine was presented by Leonid Litra, Senior Research Fellow at New Europe Center, Kiev. Eamonn Prendergast, Political Officer at the Delegation of the European Union to Ukraine presented the progresses and the problems from the point of view of the institution he represents.

After the Q&A-session the moderator opened after the coffee break the floor for animated discussions and inputs from the expert-participants. Armed with these inputs the participants selected, after clustering the proposals, three topics: The Future of Eastern Partnership Security, and Elections. For the discussions the chosen format was world café.

Regarding the first topic they consider that it is needed more information provided by the EU, more integration and connectivity (transportation, energy, ITC, culture) and more regional exchange of the country experiences. One concrete proposal was to institutionalize the EAP between the EAP-countries with a rotate presidency.

Free and fair elections are still a problem in the Ukraine because of oligarchisation of media but also by bribery of voters. Even it is marginal to the partnership it is a crucial topic for joining the EU by example. The participants considered that best practices from other countries need to be implemented, the electoral laws need to be changed, and the EU, the Venice Commission need to be not just a mediator of this process but also need to use a soft but constant pressure, to change the status quo.

Security was also a hot topic, but not just from the perspective of the recent war and the relations with Russia, it was also discussed from the point of view of cyber- and energy security. Concrete proposals are, to create a separate group on security within EAP, Extend GDPR on EaP, extend PESCO on EAP and do more regarding rule of law and corruption.

All key findings will be presented by the two authors, Leonid Litra and Denis Cenusa, in the publication, what will be presented at a separate event in Brussel.