EaP Civil Society seminar
East and West: Civil Societies in Cooperation
September 27 – 29, Tartu

Peipsi Centre for Transboundary Cooperation (www.ctc.ee) is organising the seminar ‘East and West: Civil Societies in Cooperation’ in Tartu, Estonia, from 28 to 29 September 2017. The event takes place under the auspices of the Estonian Presidency of the Council of the European Union; with financial support from KÜSK (the Estonian National Foundation of Civil Society) and in cooperation with Tartu University J. Skytte Institute.

Target Area and Beneficiaries: NGOs and social entrepreneurs working with the environmental, social, educational, community development issues outside capital regions in Ukraine, Moldova, Belarus, Georgia, Armenia, and Azerbaijan; and also in the Baltic States and Poland. In total we expect around 50 participants.

The aim of the seminar is to help to strengthen the civil society (especially in rural areas) and involve them in a discussion on the implementation and planning of the Eastern Partnership (EaP) policy. The seminar provides a platform for a discussion on problems and challenges, both of the EU as well as bilateral funded cross-border projects in the environmental, social, educational, and community development spheres. The participants work for a formulation of common interests and standpoints.

The seminar offers a chance to tell your story and share your experience with EU and EaP colleagues, as well as to build up a network.

Topics and themes:
- policy-orientated presentations on topics related to government-civil society relations in the EaP region, funding programmes and their priorities
- participants’ case studies on both EU and bilateral funded cross-border projects; lessons learned and proposals for improvements
- group work on the main challenges of CBC projects, EU-EaP civil society partnership, funding
- field trip to Southern Estonia – best case studies on community development projects

Output: With the help of the University of Tartu and with the input of participants we aim to put together a seminar report on the main challenges of the EU-EaP civil society partnership and main lessons learned, the challenges of CBC projects; what works and what does not when it comes to EU funded and independent cross-border projects. Based on that, we aim to put together an address to the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum conference held in Tallinn in
November 2017.

SEMINAR Outline

Day 1. 27.09 Wednesday

Arrival
19.00 Welcome dinner for international participants

Day 2. 28.09 Thursday

Location: Dorpat conference centre

9.00 Opening ceremony
Government office; Tartu City Council, Peipsi Centre for Transboundary Cooperation

9.40 Panel 1
What is the role of civil society in national policies, regional relations and Eastern Partnership as a whole – Estonian Centre of Eastern Partnership, https://eceap.eu/en/

Analytical introduction to the relationship of Eastern Partnership countries and EU – University of Tartu, J. Skytte Institute

What makes for a good project? Our experience with EaP countries and their Estonian partners – National Foundation of Civil Society

11.00 Panel 2, introduction and case studies

Baltic and Polish development cooperation with Eastern Partnership Countries – Polish Development Foundation

Case studies: Belarus, Georgia, Armenia – examples of cooperation projects with EU; success stories and problems.

12.30 Lunch

13.30 Working groups on main the challenges of CBC projects, EU-EaP civil society partnership, funding; working out a set of proposals

17.00 Dinner and film/photo programme, at the Estonian National Museum (www.erm.ee)
Dinner key note speech: How to better participation and the capabilities of the civil society in carrying out and planning Eastern Partnership policies: Lessons for the EU policy planning

Day 3. 29.09 Friday

9.00 Concluding Session at the Dorpat conference centre

11.00-18.00 Field trip to communities in Southern Estonia
  Case study presentations: the central themes are education, social and creative entrepreneurship and the sustainable use of regional resources. Visits to businesses and institutions of environmental and renewable energy

18.00 Dinner at the Alatskivi Castle

Day 4. departures
  Possible tour in Tartu
  Face-to-face meetings

Contacts: Seminar managers: Jaana Reinek, jaana.reinek@gmail.com
          Margit Säre, margitsare@gmail.com